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"TALENTS"---DR. AND CR.

Fragment of a Note on the Account.

BY J. N. MACUM.

Since every man for every talent given
Is charged and held accountable by heaven,
For more imp rtant than the amount in gr ss
Or capital stock is, is what thou "metiest"
Upon that capital—the amount thou settest
To credit side of the account thereof.
Don't say I've been "the more capital the better!"
For neither in the spirit nor the letter
Is that the truth of any man that lives!
Some have done well, whose capit. l was small,
While some, who seemed to have larger capital,
Could not have made so much worse with none at all!

But since each has what no one has given to each,
And since the Giver's eye is on the heart, they say,
The wise to think that each has got enough
So, when you hear men say "The more the better!"
Answer in thinking briefly thus: *"The greater The debt is, the more chargeable the debtor!"*

Nor does Christ's parable of "The Talents" teach
Otherwise, if its true intent we reach,
When he with "five" gained "five," and he with "two"
Gained "two," so"—both had done well, no one
Is what they gained than in their faithfulness.
But it is better said no more than I know,
That he with "two" would have been found to thrive
Better, had he begun at first with "five."

But what of him with *one?* Would he have been
Below par all had it been tried with *two?*
Here, a most like the weight of evidence,
The weight of probability seems to me,
To prove that he too had no need to sin.
Well with him also—well in every sense,
As well as he with "five" had been, if he
Had he prepar d his heart to *feel* to be
As earnest—had he tried, what he could do,
Then if his talent failed to gain a cent,
The worth of effort would have paid him while
Had he—as of success can be reckon di—
How are this w rld's poor most heavenly rich
Even e they fail so!

Heaven records no man
As failing, who in doing all he can!—
And he with but "one talent," had he done
His best to gain another, yet gained none,
Was "faithful for a few" in the least part of one—
True effort in the sight of heaven, and he
He that have failed to gain His Lord's "Well done!"

—But that meant work, and faith to work—
which be
Nor labor nor sought;—hence, willing so to rid
Himself of *trouble*, he his "talent" hid,
And—did his Lord came—that was all he did!

THE GOSPEL OF COMMON THINGS.

THE DRESS,---Sermon Preached by Alexander Clark, Pastor of the First Methodist Church, Fifth Street, Sabbath Evening, November 10, being the First of a Series Entitled "The Gospel of Common Things."

The following is a report of Rev. Alexander Clark's first discourse on "The Gospel of Common Things," which was delivered to a very large congregation on Sunday evening last:

TEXT---"Bring forth the best robe and put it on him."---St. Luke, xv, 22.

More than three hundred millions of dollars are spent in this country every year for dry goods, to be wrought into clothing according to the fashion. And yet the people are ever hoping for changes which require new cuts and colors, and increased expenditures of the money which *somebody* earns, before the fabrics already worn show any signs of decay. Not many garments are worn out, except by the patient poor, and those unfortunate persons who are glad to take as charity the cast-off apparel of their more fastidious neighbors.

As in the matter of food, extra millions of money are squandered for that which is not bread---for the luxuries of life---for an Asiatic bill-of-fare and body-enervating delicacies and poisons; and, as in the matter of drink, millions more are worse than wasted for that which as lately not, but giveth its color in the cup and taketh its way aright---so, and more so, is man, in the matter of clothing, the tyrant Fashion, next in cruelty to Appetite, robs the American people of one-half their money, and three-fourths of their virtue, leaving but fractional humanity to be worked in the commercial, scientific, literary and religious advances of the times. Owing to these ultimate draughts on the resources, means and health, the Lord Jesus Christ, in his saving approaches toward men and women, seems as a picture or phantom rather than the real Brother and Redeemer that He is.

Our blessed Master-and-Servant when he walked among the people as one of them, talking and sympathizing with all, regardless of condition or circumstance, comprehending the tendencies and temptations of all, asked three things which cover the whole ground of the individual who has grown into maturity in the ages before and since. "What shall we eat? What shall we drink? Wherewithal shall we be clothed?" Now, these questions all pertain to necessary things, and Jesus himself tells us how they do. For true religion always has reference to the *body as well as the soul*, to temporal as well as spiritual concerns. Christianity never be reduced to a mere swathing of shell words and tones for Sunday, and then let it hollow and silent as etherair days out of seven. There is, therefore, broad meaning in the Savior's words, "Your Heavenly Father knoweth ye have need of these things." Here is the very best reason why we should not be anxious about them. If God care for a sparrow, will he not care for a man? If he clothe the grass and the lily, will he not provide raiment for his children?

Yet how we worry ourselves and others about what we shall wear! How many vain and envious thoughts circle about incessantly on this subject! Indeed it would seem that Fashion herself, alarmed at the extravagance of her devotees, has reduced all her measures, shortening, contracting, curtailing, compressing, and belittling every article of apparel, just to see how many inches and ounces of humanity she can carry on her thumb! But all her garments are fading in texture and changeful in style. The elegant dress of today has more than half a chance to be thrown aside as a ridiculous rag to-morrow. The lack of color in a coat for November, would be accredited to a lack of brains in its wearer in the equal temperature of the succeeding March. The regiments of buttons drawn up in parade on the coat of a fashionable dandy, can readily be mistaken for the idle beadwork of Choctaw Indians the very next winter. You see---you know that the demands of this idol of fashion, even in the cities of our Christendom, are fickle and changeful and absurd---sufferingly as the edict of the Hindoo Juggernaut who tramps his hideous feets on the bodies of his worshippers.

All this world's wealth, beyond those of mere good comfort and good taste, are but flimsy fances at best. For it is not enough that the body should be clothed. The soul must have a covering. Better that the body should appear in the out-d, and even in the best, for want of raiment, than that the soul should stalk through this world naked, the pity of angels and God.

But where is there a dress for the soul? Let us open one of the world's wardrobes and look through a few of its apartments and see what they contain. To be sure: Here are a half dozen robes already in view. Let us examine them. A glance at each one will suffice for the present.

This one is Moralism; but it has been cut from a remnant, and would not fit an infant and cannot be stretched to cover an adult sinner.

Here is sectarianism; but it is a narrow head band only, with just enough fringe to drop over the eyes of the wearer, and appear as beams in the eyes of a brother. It cannot be woven into anything that will cover the body.

Another is Formalism. It is a patched and spotted robe, like Joseph's coat of many colors.

And here is a strange-looking one---Unitarianism; but it is woof of a web that has no warp, and would fall to pieces like an infant tent canvass washed up by the flood, to be drawn over a man and fastened with cables.

That is all in this wardrobe. Let us close the door. No, there is something else---a most exquisitely flimsy and fine. We can scarcely see it. It seems to be but the shadow of a robe, for it can not be felt, and would be no better than a spider's web in a tempest. This is Spiritualism; we had better leave it among the ghosts!

But what shall the soul put on? What will hide its nakedness, and shield it from the heat of youthful passion, and from the frost of declining years? Outward adornment may bring reputation to the body; but the soul must have something more enduring than reputation. It must have character. Character is not a fashionable commodity. It is not to be found in the social emporiums of metropolis, not cut out of broadcloth or silk, nor supplied with ribbons, as a dress for the sake of effect on *others* than the wearer thereof! Reputation, the body's garniture, is the product of tailors and milliners' skill; but character is the measure nor fit an immortal soul! Silk, linen, worsted, cotton, bone, brass, dust, straw, hair and paper---these are the elements of reputation; and for these, in their several combinations, the people strive as if for very life.

But character is composed of principle, thought, feeling, desire, emotion, ambition and purpose; and these are threaded and blended day by day to the Christly model which shall adorn the soul forever. Every good man's character is a pure and beautiful dress. It is a seamless robe. It is not lapped and whipped together by any sect-patented sewing machine, but woven---woven by every plain boat of life out of such things as love, patience, meekness, gentleness and hope. It is not a fashionable garment, because it is not a mere imitation of anything. Everything fashionable must necessarily be shaped and cut to the pattern of somebody else, unoriginal, unsatisfying and imperfect. Fashionists are like young pupils in school writing lines of leaning letters across the page of a copy-book. "Many men of many minds, many birds of many kinds,"---but not a man or a bird of the many ever interests the mind of a writer of such copies.

The soul-garment is gracefully adapted to its wearer, and is always appropriate, chaste and becoming. Clothed in this, apologies and explanations are unnecessary thereafter; and its possessor needs never to say, "Please excuse me this morning; I didn't expect to be caught in such a dress." The soul-dress does for working before breakfast just as well as for entertaining company after tea. It is as appropriate in the kitchen as in the parlor, for Martha as well as Mary may wear it and be beloved sisters still. It is the same in the pew as in the pulpit, and as well for a day as at a funeral. It never trails in the mud of a widow's garret, to trip strangers in the street. It is always neat and clean, and everybody is radiant in it every time. Its wearer is never at a loss for original ornaments, which are not artificial, but are as natural as the luxuriant expansion of the beautiful lily of the valley.

Away back in the olden time, (see Exodus xxxv, 26,) "All the women that were wise-hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and purple, and scarlet and fine linen." Now, in these days of modern invention and facility for handiwork, if men and women by their dress, did but indicate something of their own individual humanity and taste, there would be some excuse for display; but as it is, all of us, less or more, are but the walking advertisements of somebody's goods and somebody's genius.

But not so with the raiment of the soul. Every true Christian reflects the character with which heaven has mantled him. He has put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and the adaptation and adornment are complete. Like the woman whom John saw in Revelation clothed with the sun, "The moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of stars," so every true disciple of Christ is clothed in light and glory.

The moon to night glows in the same silvery white raiment which she has worn in her walks across the firmament since the first song of the morning stars. And yet the moon of herself is but a body of dark material, cold and desolate, without an atmosphere. But she is robed in the light of the sun which shines on her bosom, though at the time the sun is hidden from us. The moon has put on the sun for a garment, and, for beauty and majesty, she is crowned Queen of the Night. Her nightly ministries are fabulous forever, and her pathway is henceforth paved with glittering diamonds. And so, too, every twinkling star is robed in equal radiance by the beams of light. The investiture is infinite. There is enough for all. Each one of the numberless host has put on the best robe in all the sunlit universe of God. So, again, this hard old earth of ours puts on the sun. In spring-time, a robe of emerald, jewelled with brilliant flowers, of dewy bloom, and gleaming waters, and in winter-time, a shroud of burial white, to be lifted away before the power and glory of vernal resurrection. All this wondrous beauty comes out of the one source, and is put on the moon, the stars, and the earth, as Heaven's best robe for the circling years.

And so Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness, comes to every believer wherever he moves and has his being, however rough and old and dark his nature, and clothes him with his own light and gives him through faith and patience and prayer a character pure and fadeless as his own. *This is the best robe in our Heavenly Father's House.* Its strongthens and beauties are all there. It is broidered by the touch of the Holy Spirit. It is ever new, and offered free as sunlight to all. Every soul may have this beautiful raiment, wear it as ample protection through this pitiless world, and stand glorified in it at last in the kingdom above.

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Our Savior, in the parable from which the text is selected, most impressively illustrates this thought.

There was a young man who became dissatisfied with his father's house and company, demanded his portion of the estate, and, receiving it, hasted away to spend it in riotous living among strangers and harlots. He wasted his money, ruined his health, and would become such a beggar and beast that he herded with the swine and coveted their husks. But in his utter wretchedness, he came to his senses; he thought of his neglected and insulted father, his comfortable home, the plenty and peace, and with a penitent resolve he said, "I will arise and go to my father." First the thought, then the word, now the act---he starts. He trudges on in his rags, hungry, sick, forlorn, humiliated. But he feels that the whole universe has no such sacred retreat as the dear old home of his youth. Of if those doors are but open yet; if the father still lives and loves; if his ears are still open to penitence, prayer and far,---all shall be well. He presses on. He nears the familiar spot. But long before he sees his father his father sees him! O.se a father pitieth his child! He did not wait for the son to come all the way in mercy, but ran down to meet him; he threw his arms about the neck of the poor mistaken boy, and kissed him! He brings him into the house, and seeing the torn and tattered garments of the wanderer, and his bruised and lacerated body suffering from hunger, he commands his servants, "Bring forth the best robe and put it on him." These badges of poverty must give place, not only for something better, such as servants, or even ordinary children usually wear, but for the first robe---the best robe---the richest robe in the father's house,---*full assurance* of re-instatement to original position and privilege at home.

Imagine the scene. Says the father, "Bring forth the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." How the glorious robe of the father breaks away! Music and dancing make the chambers ring and re-echo with joy. Why! it is as if a King's son had come home with his bride, instead of a poor prodigal alone. But a penitent is better than a prince. The lost is found. The dead is alive. "Look at my son," says the father, "see his mother---long missing from the family circle, sainted in glory---see her back now in spirit; she smiles and weeps for joy! Hear my song of joy. He is my son. He is part of my soul! I have prayed for this; and behold what an answer! He is robed in my best robe. On his finger is the seal of his pardon. On his feet shoes that he will not easily lame whithersoever he will henceforth. His hunger is satisfied with plenty. He is safe and welcome at home again; and the great mistake of his life shall be forgotten forever. Let the music ring out to the fields, and the ecstacy increase and abound!"

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Yes, although he may have no companions, no friends, no counsellors---nothing but the dumb companionship of hunger, and nothing to clothe him; yet; after all, he has a father---a Father! "I will arise and go." He starts there, now! See him: His own strength is nothing but blundering weakness. His raiment is nothing but rags. He doesn't look like anybody's human son---he is so utterly impoverished. But no matter, if on all the returning journey not a being may recognize him or care for him, he has a Father, and a pitying eye will see him afar off, and he need not go trembling and knocking at the dear home door. He will be met just *because* he has no friend; he will be welcomed with a kiss just *because* nobody else cares for him; and he will be led into the house just because he is an outcast; and just *because* he is ragged and insightly, the command will ring through every chamber of the heavenly mansion, until all the angels hear the rich music tones of a Father's voice: "Bring forth the best robe and put it on him." And when the robe the harps will be brought forth, and there will be more rejoicing in Heaven over one sinner who repenteth, than over ninety and nine who went not astray."

The dear Savior, who once stood condemned, but innocent, clad in a robe of cast-off purple at Pilate's bar, has, by his death, prepared a robe of righteousness, spotless and white, for every guilty soul that will come to him, confess, forsake, confess, come home to God, by the door of His church---put on the Lord Jesus Christ; and just because you are nobody to the world, and nothing to yourself, the Father of Spirits will own you as his child, and array you in the seamless robe of Christ's righteousness this very hour. You have worn the tatters of a prodigal long enough. Come, and be clothed upon with with apparel which indicates an accepted son. Come, and be admitted to the joyous feast.

Backslider, come home. You have forfeited your beautiful estate; your mantle of acceptance and favor has been stolen or has worn out in the beckoning of Mammom and Fashion; you have sacrificed character to gain reputation; you may be friendless, homeless, and herded with the vulgar throng, feeding on husks and shivering in November rains; but if you repent, forsake and do your first works over again, your Father will meet you on the way, command a feast and sweet music, and mantle you once more with the first robe---the best robe---the more than royal robe of the righteousness of Christ.

O, I see you coming home, weary brother---coming home; and I hear already, in far, far richer than organ music, the voice of a Father's welcome, "Bring forth the best robe." It is the robe of Purity. One word to mantle you with the character of Christ the moment you are willing that your ragged reputation should be cast away. Prepared and at hand for you is the beautiful raiment, pure and white as the unsullied snow. When you are clothed upon you your words and actions will be as ornaments of gold on your spotless robe. Truth will be your girdle, making you strong and ready in doing good; and obedience will put shoes on your feet, as a preparation of the gospel of peace.

The Israelites had garments which faded not nor waxed old for forty years. But this best robe will never decay. You will no more weary of it than a cloud wearies of its rainbow, or the moon and stars of the sun. This robe, wrought from eternal Truth and Love before the world was, and yet forever new, put on in your moment of sorrow for sin, is the same which shall royally adorn you in the presence of God and his holy angels in heaven.

You will have already returned from your wandering in sin and are wearing the righteousness of Jesus to-night, O, keep your robe unspotted by the world. If you wear it to the theater, the ball-room, or the opera, it will be tarnished, if worn at all. Let it be your garment in God's company, and touch fraternal hands with sin in heavenly gloves and gentle it may be, your robe will be soiled, and you will be an public scandal. Let it be your garment in the sick chamber, and you will be a public example of spiritual ornaments, which are not artificial, but are as natural as the luxuriant expansion of the beautiful lily of the valley.

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The dear Savior, who once stood condemned, but innocent, clad in a robe of cast-off purple at Pilate's bar, has, by his death, prepared a robe of righteousness, spotless and white, for every guilty soul that will come to him, confess, forsake, confess, come home to God, by the door of His church---put on the Lord Jesus Christ; and just because you are nobody to the world, and nothing to yourself, the Father of Spirits will own you as his child, and array you in the seamless robe of Christ's righteousness this very hour. You have worn the tatters of a prodigal long enough. Come, and be clothed upon with with apparel which indicates an accepted son. Come, and be admitted to the joyous feast.

Backslider, come home. You have forfeited your beautiful estate; your mantle of acceptance and favor has been stolen or has worn out in the beckoning of Mammom and Fashion; you have sacrificed character to gain reputation; you may be friendless, homeless, and herded with the vulgar throng, feeding on husks and shivering in November rains; but if you repent, forsake and do your first works over again, your Father will meet you on the way, command a feast and sweet music, and mantle you once more with the first robe---the best robe---the more than royal robe of the righteousness of Christ.

O, I see you coming home, weary brother---coming home; and I hear already, in far, far richer than organ music, the voice of a Father's welcome, "Bring forth the best robe." It is the robe of Purity. One word to mantle you with the character of Christ the moment you are willing that your ragged reputation should be cast away. Prepared and at hand for you is the beautiful raiment, pure and white as the unsullied snow. When you are clothed upon you your words and actions will be as ornaments of gold on your spotless robe. Truth will be your girdle, making you strong and ready in doing good; and obedience will put shoes on your feet, as a preparation of the gospel of peace.

The Israelites had garments which faded not nor waxed old for forty years. But this best robe will never decay. You will no more weary of it than a cloud wearies of its rainbow, or the moon and stars of the sun. This robe, wrought from eternal Truth and Love before the world was, and yet forever new, put on in your moment of sorrow for sin, is the same which shall royally adorn you in the presence of God and his holy angels in heaven.

You will have already returned from your wandering in sin and are wearing the righteousness of Jesus to-night, O, keep your robe unspotted by the world. If you wear it to the theater, the ball-room, or the opera, it will be tarnished, if worn at all. Let it be your garment in God's company, and touch fraternal hands with sin in heavenly gloves and gentle it may be, your robe will be soiled, and you will be an public scandal. Let it be your garment in the sick chamber, and you will be a public example of spiritual ornaments, which are not artificial, but are as natural as the luxuriant expansion of the beautiful lily of the valley.

THE PERILS OF THE COLORADO DESERT.

Terrible Heat---Sufferings of Two San Franciscans and Death of One from Thirst---Interesting Narrative of the Survivor.

[From the Alta California, October 23.]

Mr. Levi Murphy, an old resident of San Francisco, who arrived here from Williams's Fork, Arizona, on Monday, gives us the particulars of the death of a young man from San Francisco, by thirst on the desert. Mr. Murphy and the deceased---a young German, by the name of Parker---started from Willow Springs, on the California side of the Colorado River, twelve miles this side of Bradshaw's Ferry, on foot, on the 6th inst., intending to make Chucolwalla, forty-seven miles on the road towards San Bernardino, sometime during the following night.

On the road the young man told Murphy that he was a deserter from the Eighth cavalry, and that his parents reside in San Francisco. His father being a musician. He said his age was about twenty years, and that he deserted from the vicinity of Prescott. They expected to get water at Mule Springs, twenty five miles east of Chuckwalla, but did not find a drop. They stayed, however, over night at that point, having found wet sand, and hoping to strike water by digging after daylight on Monday morning. Not succeeding, however they started on; about nine o'clock the young man gave out and laid down under a tree. Murphy gave him all the water he had, and told him to remain quiet where he was, and if he succeeded in reaching Chucolwalla he would send an Indian back with water for him.

Murphy then started on but soon fell down on the road from exhaustion, after having thrown away his pistol, boots and every thing else which encumbered his progress. He managed to crawl under a tree, from which he made numerous unsuccessful efforts to get a fresh start before night, the sun causing him to faint every time. At length the cool of night came on and raised his strength to such an extent that he was able to move along the road once more, and ultimately to reach Chucolwalla about day light on Tuesday morning, having been all night traveling seven miles. Murphy then sent an Indian back with two canteens of water to the spot where he had left his companion. The Indian went back to the place and found the young fellow last in his delirium got up and wandered away down the road towards La Paz, going directly away from the water. The Indian followed the trail for eight miles and came to Chucolwalla, where a second party having been sent out found the body of the unfortunate man by the side of the road, about five miles west of the slough, sixteen miles from the Colorado River. Had he remained where he was he would have been rescued, and been able to keep on five miles further he would have found water in abundance. He had hung to his blankets---of which he had two pairs---and all his other traps to the last. In dying he had made his bed as if for sleeping, and was found lying with his head pillowed on one of the blankets which he had rolled up for the purpose. What little money he had was found in his shoe. As he had stated that he was a Catholic, Mr. Thomas Matthews collected the body and buried it on a mesa by the side of the road, erected a cross over the grave. Mr. Murphy, who is an old frontiersman, speaks of the heat on the desert as being terrible in the extreme, equal to any he has ever experienced in the Gila valley. The wind seemed hotter than the still air itself, fairly blistering the skin as it touched it. After living sick from his exhaustion and sufferings for five days on the desert, Murphy resumed his journey, and reached San Bernardino, where he rejoined his wife, who had crossed the desert before him.

At Dos Palmas, where Herman Ehrenberg was murdered by Yuma Indians last year, the desert near the Lake of Salt, which once formed the upper arm of the Gulf of California, there was formerly a hot spring, beside which stood a noble palm tree, one of those from which the place takes its name. The waters of this spring are so highly charged with sulphur and soda as to be nauseous to the taste to an intense degree. Last May Murphy found the water but a few rods near this hot spring from the rugged volcanic rocks by which the valley is surrounded. Five days before Mr. Murphy arrived there---about the 10th or 12th instant---a earthquake shock of violence shook the whole face of the valley, and a large brook of pure clear cold water broke out from a wide fissure in the earth opened by the shock. The water was still running when Mr. Murphy left. The fissure was reported to be but a few miles below Dos Palmas, on the eastern side of the desert, and the whole locality smells of the infernal regions.

"BUYING only for immediate wants," is a phrase often met with in reports of the state of the markets and the condition of business. It intimates a cautiousness on the part of purchasers, which tends materially to restrict sales, and to reduce the amount of business. But after all, this may be the very thing that trade requires, for the benefit of both buyers and sellers. As a rule, adapted to all times as well as the present, we see nothing to object to in making and consumers buying only for their immediate wants. To heap up large and superfluous stocks has long been understood by judicious men to be an unwise policy. Depreciation of commodities and interest on the money locked up make sometimes large deductions from expected profits. Besides, the facilities for visiting the great marts of trade are calculated to make limited and frequent purchases the present rule. We can, therefore, hardly take for fact indicated in the present expansion as evidence of an unfavorable condition of business. For both parties in the transaction---as well as for the country at large, it rather takes rank as a good feature of business---a decided improvement on the old system of long credits and large purchases. It shows a growing in the country and a cautiousness among traders which promise, in the end, a general safety and prosperity in business.

A Georgia letter from an intelligent source says:

We shall have a large majority of delegates in the state convention, but our great fight will be on the ratification of the Constitution. If we had the state Government in our favor we could succeed with ease.

The End of the Paris Exhibition.

The Exhibition, its closing miseries, and the crimes committed in its name, made the latter end of the great *fiasco* even worse than its beginning, and the confusion amid which it commenced far more terrible towards its ending. Of all the people concerned not one is satisfied. Exhibitors and juries, buyers and sellers, are all alike complaining of each other. About two hundred lawsuits have arisen out of the abuses permitted by the Commission and disputed by the exhibitors. Not a single individual chooses to own that he has been a gainer by the show. The very restaurateurs, who have been accused of having made extortionate profits, turn round upon their customers in a body, and declare they are ruined by the speculation. When Rouher, the greatest of all, was reproached with "having robbed the public to an enormous extent," he replied, with bitterness, that the robbery must be mutual, for he had received 1,000,000 francs for his pension. The Commission closed the accounts and made up the books when it was proved that the undertaking had cleared its expenses, which had not been expected.

Swallowed Up by the Sea.

The sinking of the Island of Tortola, one of the West Indias, whereby ten thousand human lives and every living thing were destroyed, is one of those disasters we are seldom called upon to record. The Island was situated a short distance east of St. Thomas, the Island said to have been lately purchased by our Government of Denmark. Tortola is one of the Virgin group, and its chief town, Tortola, has a magnificent harbor, completely land locked, and capable of accommodating hundreds of ships. Whether the submerging alluded to was caused by a subsidence of the island itself owing to some volcanic convulsion, or was caused by the late tremendous hurricane which has prevailed in that quarter, and which was so destructive at St Thomas, we are not informed. Probably the latter, however, as the island has been known since 1493, in which year it was discovered by Columbus, and is of a rocky, mountainous character.

Commissioner Wells and his Report.

The friends of Commissioner Wells say that his report, now being prepared for Secretary McCulloch, will be virtually adopted by that officer and communicated to Congress. It is virtually a free trade document, as its moderate, and incidental system of protection will afford no relief to manufacturers. On raw wool, Mr. Wells proposes to reduce the duty, and to abolish the cotton tax entirely. If the latter should be done, Commissioner Rollins says the Revenue Department in the South would not pay expenses. It favors a slight reduction of the excise tax upon some articles, and recommends the importation of coal and ores free from duty.

SENATOR WILSON has written a letter to the North Carolina Convention to say that he indulges "the hope that God has willed it that the poor hated black men, enfranchised by Congress, shall have the honor of bringing into the Union the rebellious States with the equal rights of all men assured." He then adds:

"Do not, my dear sir, fear Congress. We will not retire a single inch. Congress will stand like a rock in defense of its policy of reconstruction. Depend upon this. Patriotism, liberty, justice---all demand that Congress shall stand firm against every effort to give power to the rebels. Do your whole duty. Reconstruct your State. Secure equal rights for all. Provide school, equitable taxation, encourage industry, and you will surprise the world North and to their relation. Let God exalt you, as it should be an unspoken word in your state it has no meaning."

Senator Wilson also takes ground in favor of repealing the cotton tax. The letter has given great satisfaction in the South.

FROM PHILADELPHIA.

Trade and Politics---Improvements and Cheap Rents---Broad Street.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

PHILADELPHIA, November 14, 1867.

Whether the predictions of "G. A." in regard to the weather in your city have proved correct up to date, is better known to you than to me, but for this neighborhood they would prove wide of the mark, as this was as fine a fall morning as the most captious could conceive or desire. The frost appeared almost like snow on the ground, and every man seemed as if puffing out steam from an engine under his waistcoat. The watchers for the meteoric shower last night must have needed the assistance of sundry "hot stuffs" to assist their vigils. and, even with them, have often wished themselves snug in their warm beds.

It trade is dull, and it is, the number of gayly dressed promenaders of Chestnut street seems to be none the less than when it was brisk, the only difference being that the ladies wear brighter colors on their cheeks from the frosty weather, and the gentlemen affect over coats to a degree that must be stimulating to the knights of the shears and thimble.

The wo thy citizens of this charming village seem to be Stanton men, and determined not to let their opinion remain a matter of doubt. Their views must receive a certain degree of respect as the reflection of a sound loyal sentiment that has done well in the past and may be regarded as safe to follow in the future---for the Union League of Philadelphia is the mother of all the Leagues that spread over the entire North, giving encouragement to patriotic feeling and action, and assisting greatly thereby the recruiting of men for the support of those already at the front. It also established the school for the instruction af privates to enable them to take commissions in the colored regiments, and furnished many valuable officers and distributed greatly to render that branch of the service so effective. All honor to Philadelphia and her energetic citizens, and may the man of her choice come to be highly appreciated by the whole loyal North.

The signs of improvement here are many and various; too much so to enumerate, but the fact that licenses have been granted in the two weeks of November for the building of *three hundred* houses shows that something is being done. Besides a house can be rented here in a desirable locality for six hundred dollars, that would be held at *nine* hundred in Pittsburgh, and a much better house, too, than those usually offered for rent there.

The rails have not yet been taken up from Broad street, but soon will be, and when that fine wide street is paved with the Nicolson pavement for the eleven miles of its length, it will come nearer to a *boulevard* than any street in America.

The dwellings on Chestnut are gradually giving way to stores and business houses, and are being forced north, south and west, where lots are larger and prices not so high, and it is undeniable that the style of the new stores is much finer, while in residences there is a growing imitation of the New York houses, both in material and plan.

AD.

A WONDERFUL RIVER.

The Colorado Navigable to Utah.

The Colorado River, whether considered as an independent water course through an almost unbroken country, or in connection with the railroads that are stretching across the contin

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1867.

TERMS:

If sent by mail, per year.....$2 00
Clubs of twenty, per year.....1 50
One copy gratis to the getter-up of the club.

REVISING OUR TAX LAWS.

The State Treasurer and Auditor General have been instructed to report to the next Legislature a revision of the revenue laws of the State. This work when finished and adopted by the Legislature will undoubtedly result in repealing the State tax upon all property appearing on the Assessor's books, and supporting the State Government by substituting taxation on corporations and the proceeds of license. This will not only take away the necessity on the part of the State authorities to reform our assessment laws in regard to the valuation of real and personal property appearing upon the Assessor's books, but will also remove all obstacles in the way of our county and local authorities for correcting our present assessment laws. Then it will only be for local purposes that these assessments will be used, and a correct cash value, as now contemplated by law, will be to the interest of all honest citizens. Heretofore, a stumbling block has always been that if our own county executes the law, according to its palpable intention, then we would pay more than our fair share of State taxation.

The old mode of supporting the State Government before the introduction of the canal system, was the same as is proposed in the contemplated reform. Pennsylvania had no State taxes, in fact, until she undertook the construction of Canals and Railroads. Now having sold her public works, she proposes to return to her old system of taxation.

We have on two occasions recently, discussed at length the inequality of our present assessment laws. Without traveling over the same ground again, we will simply add, that the statistical exhibit of our State, as contrasted with our sister States, has been shamefully to our disadvantage. The entire assessed valuation of the real and personal estate of Pennsylvania has been only $600,000,000, while Ohio and Massachusetts have each shown about $1,200,000,000 and New York $1,600,000,000. Now, that no motive will any longer remain, except to do equal and exact justice among ourselves, why should not the existing law be carried out in its fair intention, and the county of Allegheny, instead of making the contemptible return of $32,000,000, be assessed at its fair cash valuation of say $152,000,000. It should be done because it is the meaning and intention of the law on our statute book. Our assessing officers and boards of revision, in number about two hundred and thirty, all take a solemn oath to assess property at its cash value, and yet their assessments are at one-third, one-fifth, in some cases one-tenth of their cash value,—and certainly not less than $20,000,000 of personal property within this county, has never been returned; and of course is not on the Assessors' books and therefore pays no taxes.

In the city of Philadelphia this same contest has been going on for two years past. Under the old system her valuation was about $170,000,000, and her rate of taxation four per cent., or forty mills on the dollar. Under the new, her valuation is $454,000,000 and her rate of taxation fourteen mills on the dollar, and of this nearly $100,000,000 is of personal property not before on the assessors' books. Her real estate is in the aggregate about two and a half times what it was under the old system. Suppose the same system of reform is carried out here, the real estate of Allegheny county would be assessed at say $80,000,000, and some $30,000,000 of personal property not now on the list would be added. Then instead of forty mills, we, too, would have to pay say fourteen mills for all purposes. Then we would be executing the laws, according to their letter and spirit. We would not be requiring two hundred and thirty of our citizens to violate their oaths in regard to the assessments of our property. We would not be demoralizing the whole body politic by administering what are sometimes called Custom House oaths. We invoke the attention of our Legislators, our county, ward, borough and township officials, to this much needed reform. It would of course create a hubbub for the time being, but every intelligent man knows that as now administered it is a great abuse.

THE RAILROAD COMMITTEE IN THE SENATE

Liberal railroad legislation at Harrisburg has for several years past been sadly embarrassed by the committee having all such measures in charge. Bills read in place the first week of the session could never be got out of committee until near the close; while other bills, prepared by a particular interest, would be reported the next morning after their introduction. The Senate Committee on Railroads continued unchanged for three or four years, until last session. Then Senator LANDON, of Bradford county, in violation of all parliamentary proceedings, was made chairman. All the old members of that committee, three Republicans and one Democrat were displaced to make way for Senator LANDON, who, on more than one occasion, admitted that he knew almost nothing about railroads; and he, on all occasions, in Committee and in the Senate, acted as the Monopoly wanted. The Republican Convention, at Williamsport, and nearly all the local county conventions, have declared in favor of a liberal Free Railroad Law. We congratulate the friends of a Free Law on having in Speaker GRAHAM a staunch friend of this measure, and also of the Connellsville Bill, and that some true and trusted friend of these measures will be placed at the head of this important committee in the Senate. We have not spoken to Senator GRAHAM on this question. He will, without doubt, deem it his paramount duty to appoint a live man for Chairman, and a majority of the Committee Free Railroad men. If not, we shall give up all hopes of the next Legislature doing any good on this question.

Senator LANDON cannot complain. He was placed at the head of the Senate Railroad Committee, in January, 1867, in violation of all parliamentary usage. In January, 1868, his continuance would be an insult to the public sentiment on these subjects. Of course the Speaker of the Senate will recognize this public sentiment and Senator LANDON will not expect a reappointment. We believe the entire West expects and demands that another and different style of Senator will be placed at the head of this Committee.

Oil City and the Allegheny Valley Railroad.

The Oil City *Petrolian* states that the people of that city are rejoicing over the completion of the Allegheny Valley Railroad, and pays a merited compliment to the enterprise and energy of Col. Wm. Phillips, the President of the company. The citizens hold that the Allegheny Valley Road is one of the most important for the best interests of not only Oil City but of the entire oil region of Pennsylvania, and are making preparations to take advantage of the large addition to their present business which the road will confer, and are sparing no pains to co-operate with the managers of the company. One million of barrels of oil are now awaiting shipment from the oil regions, the greater part of which will find its way to Pittsburgh by the Valley Road, whose capacity at the start will be four thousand barrels per day, but which will be increased as rapidly as circumstances will permit.

AMERICAN EMIGRATION TO GERMANY.—*Every Saturday* calls attention to the fact that there is a large emigration of Americans to Germany, as well as a migration of Germans to America. This is owing to the increased cost of living in this country. Persons of fixed moderate income have discovered that living and education cost far less in Germany than in American cities, and they are settling many of the continental towns, but especially in Stuttgart, where Americans are said to greatly outnumber the English residents, and in fact have nearly driven them out.

THE DICKENS DINNER.

AN UNPRECEDENTED EVENT.

Speech by Mr. Dickens.

Why He Comes to America, and His "Great Expectations."

Correspondence of the New York Tribune.

LONDON, November 4, 1867.

The dinner given to Charles Dickens on Saturday evening, on the occasion of his departure for America, is a high historical event. Nothing like it has ever before occurred in London. Dainty dishes have indeed been often served and eaten in the old Freemason's tavern, before now, but those who have gathered around them have been almost always the members of a guild, a class, a profession, a fragment of this great world; but the company that assembled to honor Dickens represented humanity. It was a "federation of the world" in miniature edition. The poor artist, the poor actor, from their respective attics, who had saved from scanty earnings the guinea needful for this treat, sat side by side with the Chief-Justice of England, the Peer of the realm. The humble citizens of the Republic of Letters—"rightly so named since we have not a Sovereign among us," as one of them once said—were sandwiched between paunchy bankers and merchants who had never forgotten the delineator of the "Cheerible Brothers," these were for once on an equality. When this "exceedingly miscellaneous assembly" (as an aristocrat is said to have remarked when he entered heaven), gathered in the reception room on Saturday evening, the one question was "Who's who?" A noble Lord who took my cloak made up his mind to strange bed-fellows, shook hands warmly with the white-cravatted usher at the door, supposing him to be the proper receiver of the company. My lord is a little deaf, and so, probably, the usher also. "What name shall I announce?" the Coleman grasps his hand and exclaims, "Ah—indeed. I am very glad indeed, Sir, to make your acquaintance—very!" Presently there came in a very large, fat man, whose great object, it soon became plain, was to see all the notables as they came in—an Ajax not known to fame, who asked only to see. Unconsciously, this big brother had got such a prophetic position near the door, that all who entered the door thought he was the man selected to play the part of host, and so every guest sprung at him and wrung his hand. Not Pogram—not Dickens himself—was subjected to such a hand-shaking as this amazed fellow, who, after many fruitless efforts to explain that he was nobody at all, rushed from the room in dismay. At last the head-waiter appeared at the door and exclaimed, "Gentlemen thanked for Table Hay, please move up this way." We of Table A, beginning to seat ourselves to be meant, followed, and soon there was a goodly company of five hundred (thousands of tickets could have been sold, had the room been sufficient) seated and ready to receive the great guests of the occasion. At length the doors were thrown open, and the well-known faces of Bulwer and Dickens appeared at it. They were received with a cry rang through the room, hankerchiefs waved in the air, and from the galleries, where was a large company of ladies in full dress, and the band struck up a grand march. As Dickens passed up the aisle, his cheeks were on fire, his eyes flamed. He glanced around the room, on whose walls all around were written in great golden letters the names of his works. Ahead he saw the English flag, knit with the Stars and Stripes, and above them the word "Pickwick." There was a curious look on the face of Lord Lytton, and it seemed to me to say, "How gladly would I give my title and my estates to have this enthusiasm surging up to me from the Anglo-Saxon heart." Behind the two walked a strange procession—strange because of its incomparable mixture which I have already mentioned; the Lord Chief Justice of England; the Lord Mayor, with the air of being a king (limited); Lord Houghton, ever smiling as the world has smiled on him; Sir Charles Russell; then a group of Academicians—Baron Marochetti, Maclise, Frith, Millais, Creswick, Elmore, Ward, C. Landseer, Goodall, Faed, Sir Francis Grant, Sir E. Landseer, Sir Emerson Annett, Sir R. Phillips; Prout, with his eagle-eyes, Sir William Ferguson, Sir Thomas Watson, Sir C. Wentworth Dilke—the Captain General of the Queen's Forces—and several other noted divines; Mr. Layard, M. P., with Mr. Osborne, M. P., Mr. Hepworth Dixon, Jackie Cursetjee, with his fez on. There was a burst of applause when the venerable octogenarian worker, Charles Knight, came up. Mr. Yeates's son-in-law was with the Hughes and Russell, the latter in his military dress. Nearly all of the younger literary men were present—men they are whose eminence must generally be measured by this severe standard which decapitation has related to Shakspeare, such men as Edmund Yates, Sala, and Hepworth Dixon, had been born in Chicago or Cincinnati, what great men they would have been! But there are in second and third ranks, because Corbyn and Tyrrell turned up long trains of memory—Horace Mayhew, who wrote for the first number of *Punch*, and nearly all subsequent ones, Blanchard Jerrold and Tom Hood, who reap gold where their fathers planted dry crusts, and Charles Mskay, who learned the good time coming for the gold of Printing-House-Square: Tom Taylor, Mark Lemon, Walter Thornbury, Andrew Halliday, who make Bohemianism respectable; Westland Marston, who used to see Bronson Alcott's Conversations at Alcott House, Ham Common, with big hopes of a renovated race, who has, however, these many years tried to realize his visions in the mimic life of the stage. Here, too, was Mr. Arthur Dicey, who has concluded his friendly works on America by marrying a Boston lady; Henry Reeve, editor of *The Edinburgh Review*, a pleasant Philistine; Buckstone, Fetcher, Webster, Howard and Bell; many other dramatists; Sergeant Ballentine, Sergeant Parry, Mr. Henry James, Mr. Ralph Benson, Mr. Montagu Williams, Mr. John Murray, Mr. George Smith, Mr. F. C. Chapman, Mr. Odger, Mr. Lucas, Mr. Virtue, Mr. Calpin, Mr. Mudie, Mr. Lethbridge, Mr. Benedict, Mr. Arthur Sullivan, Mr. German Reed, Mr. Frank Matthews, Mr. Erasmus Wilson, Dr. Priestly, Sir Henry Thompson, Mr. Wellington, Dr. Forbes Winslow, Dr. Hood, Dr. Hodgson, Dr. Sheppard, Dr. O'Connor, Colonel Hamley, R. A., Capt. Brackenbury, Sir Henry Anderson, Commander Pim, Sir W. Fraser, the Hon. Spencer Lattleton, Mr. Benjamin Lumley, McGuiveler W. Hunt, Mr. J. Dillon, Alderman Colton, Mr. H. A. Glass, Mr. Marsh Nelson, Mr. Beattie, Mr. J. Berkeley Thompson, Mr. Arthur Lloyd, Mr. Alfred Elwes, and Mr. H. R. Forster.

The Americans mustered also in some force. Morgan, the banker, had a seat under the words, "Martin Chuzzlewit," and I observed Mr. G. W. Smalley, of the *Tribune*, C. C. Coffin, C'Carleton," of the *Boston Journal*, Mr. D. Lowrie, Mr. Russell Sturgis, and those who follow.

Nor is the gallery without its attractions—chiefly on account of the presence there of Miss Dickens—who strikingly resembles her father—attended by Miss Hogarth, the sister of Mrs. Dickens (*that was*). There were not, however, many literary ladies present; and I don't wonder that they staid away, if only to protest against the barbarism which can thrust them off into a gallery to look down for an hour on the unattractive sight of five hundred bipeds dining.

At last the beast is fed, the man is ready for his entertainment. The select chorus sings Dr. John Smith's grace:

"Deum laudate, propter beneficia sua,
Dominum laudate, et gratias agite."

Lord Lytton, the chairman, rises. He is excessively dressed up, and cannot suppress his vanity; over sixty, Bulwer doesn't look fifty; but he is "made up"—his hair and beard, and eyebrows are too dark not to excite suspicion; voices are the real tests of age, and when he spoke it was the voice of a past generation. Disraeli himself has not such a Jewish face as Bulwer, whose nose is almost a caricature of the Anglican. There is a Semitic character in every line of his face, however; his body is a phantasm in which his tailor may believe. His speaking is ingeniously bad. It is the ideal of the style of a hard-shell Baptist preacher far away in Old Virginia. A hackneyed word or two—a long drawl—terminated by a jerk, at which the forehead is thrown down until the audience sees the back of the head—this is the history of one of Bulwer's prettiest, unpleasant sentences. He throws his hand (with faultless cuffs) straight out; clasps the fingers tightly to the palm; then draws it under his arm, as a man would pull out a gudgeon—and that is the gesture. He should appear only in print. To those who could shut their eyes (as I did), and listen to what he said, his speeches on Saturday were very good indeed. He is the first man whom, in a long experience of London life, I have ever heard put a single remark worth making into the inevitable toast to the Queen; for it certainly was worth noting, as he said, that the reign of Victoria had, above all others, been literary because it had been the reign of the civilization that ever seeks to draw closer the legitimate union of knowledge and power." His speech, in proposing the toast of the evening, was certainly a perfect thing of its kind. I do not venture to criticise it. He said:

"I now approach the toast which is special to the occasion that has brought together a meeting so numerous and so distinguished. You are met to pay the customary honors to our beloved Sovereign (one not only to her personal virtues, but to that principle of constitutional monarchy in which the communities of Europe recognize the happiest mode of uniting liberty, with order, and giving the principles for the future a definite starting point in the experience and in the history of the world). We are now invited to do honor to a different kind of loyalty, which is seldom publicly acknowledged until he who wins and adorns it has ceased to exist in the breath of living men—loyalty to genius, by which his thoughts bequeath to his name. Happy is the man who makes clear his title deeds to the royalty of genius while he yet lives to enjoy the gratitude and reverence of those he has subjected to his sway. (Cheers.) Though it be the highest reward he achieves his throne, he at least is a conqueror whom no jealousies can dethrone, and the more despotically he en thralls the dearer he becomes to the hearts of men. (Cheers.) Seldom, I say, has that kind of royalty been quietly conceded to any man of genius until his tomb becomes his throne; and yet there is not one of us who does not think it strange that it is granted without a murmur to the genius we have met to honor to-night. It was said by a Roman poet, that Nature, designing to distinguish the human race from inferior animals by the quality of social progress which makes each man link with each for the aid and advancement of the race to mean *multitudo unita*—leaves the most acute sensibility to sympathy with their fellow kind; hence tears, and, perhaps the quickest sensibility to the special and the noblest attribute of humanity, pity. Thus it is humanity itself which opens an irresistible influence when it renders homage to one who refines it by tears that never enfeeble, and gladdens it by a laughter that never degrades. (Cheers). We are about to trust our honored countryman to the hospitality of those kindred to him by the ties of blood, by the same household words as they are in the homes of England, by the same literature, and, as a politician I should say that no time for his visit could be more happily chosen by our American kinsfolk have conceived, rightfully or wrongfully, that they have some recent cause of complaint against ourselves; and out of all England we could not have selected an envoy, speaking not in behalf of our Government but of our people, more calculated to allay irritation and propitiate good will. (Cheers.) In the matter of good will there is a distinction between us English and Americans which may for a time operate to our disadvantage; for we English insist from my knowledge of the impulsive nature of the Americans, I shall leave him safely in their hands. [Loud laughter.] Don't imagine, from my humble tribute to her character, that I am sing them again." [Much laughter.]

The Lord Chief Justice made a good speech, in which he described Dickens as the Garrick of literature. His speech proposed the health of Dickens, and was received with much feeling of the time when he and Bulwer were standing out in life together. He related how Bulwer encouraged him that he was writing a poem on Sculpture for a prize, and he, Lord Cockburn, was the first to announce to him that he had gained it. This speech was well delivered and striking. It more than ever brought before some of us the great literary revolutions that yawned between Lord Lytton, the novelist of Corn's and conventions—the last of his school—and the novelist of that new era which has brought art from the palace to the cottage, the cabin, the life of the lowly. How the titled and the obscure—the rich and the poor—gave that dear man who has clothed the byways, the haunts, the beggars of the great city with romance. No man who walks through London streets with the same eyes since he wrote. The age of chivalry has passed: a new one begins. When the dinner was over Mr. Dickens returned to the ante-room, where multitudes gathered about him to bid him farewell. I saw a noble Lord shake his hand at the door as he was departing; and I saw, too, when he had got outside the door, an old woman of the people grasp his hand, and, stooping, she kissed it.

THE WAR, AND AFTER.

Lieutenant General Sherman's Address to the Society of the Army of the Tennessee.

A Forecast of the Nation's New Era.

The following is a full report of Lieutenant General Sherman's address to the Society of the Army of the Tennessee, at its annual meeting in St. Louis, on Thursday last:

Mr. President, Comrades and Friends:

It is a high privilege for me thus to meet my old comrades once more in health and comfort here at my own home in St. Louis, in the midst of peace, plenty and all the luxuries of civilization, instead of far away in the distant camps of the South, surrounded by the gloom and dangers of war, and the ominous war; and it is right we should thus meet again to keep alive the memories of those days and of those events, which are not only woven into our very natures but into the history of our country itself.

When I received your kind invitation to attend at your meeting last year in Cincinnati, but I have read in print the address of our President, General Rawlins, which so clearly and fully described the history of the early growth of the Army of the Tennessee, that a further attempt on that point would be superfluous, and if now I touch on some of the leading points, it will be simply to fill a gap or to illustrate the subject of my discourse.

But the next year, years ago, in the memorable year 1861, we were all startled by the gathering clouds which portended civil war, but so accustomed had our people become (at the North especially) to the warlike languages of the press, that few realized the terrible earnest that was then gathering about us

NEW YORK LETTER.

The Political Outlook—The Great American Sphynx—Local Politics—Personal Matters—Business and Amusements.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

NEW YORK, November 18, 1867.

An attempt to give you news would be a very futile effort; for you will get the papers of to-day simultaneously with this letter, and they will afford the fullest opportunity to select plenty of that. But I can give you views and an inside coloring to some current topics that may not prove uninteresting to many of your readers.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

The peculiar relations of political parties is a subject upon which it is the duty of every one, excepting General Grant, to express himself. You have on more than one occasion implied a certain confidence in my judgment when treating of such matters, and I therefore feel less diffidence than otherwise I might in modestly vaticinating now. And I hold that the use of the word "vaticinate" is good in the present aspect of affairs; for absolute determination of opinion I can regard as not only presumptuous but impossible. The public mind is in an unsettled and transition state all over the country. I am not working now for Allegheny county, but for a journal which exercises a wide spread influence beyond the sphere of its local circulation. I say the public mind is in a transition state. Only the ultra radicals of the two antagonistic parties are complacent and infatuated enough to think they see their way clear before them, and those, though starting from opposite directions, are both butting their heads against the same stone fence—to wit: the Popular Will. Whether we like it or not, it is useless for us to try to ignore the fact that the people have declared their repugnance to the two most prominent features of the extremists' programme—Negro Suffrage in the North and Sumptuary Legislation. We may be angry and defiant over the teachings of this new revelation, like the *Tribune*; or gloomy and despondent, like a number of Mr. Greeley's less pucky contemporaries; but an ebullition of any kind of temper will never alter a fact. Certain features of the policy of the Republican party, originated by a clique of wise and wild excitement, have had their day, and require now not simply modification, but positive change. In the first place, the mania for meddlesome interference with long cherished social customs is preliminary to be abandoned. Restraints upon men's habits of life, where the point of committing actual crime is not approached, will not be tolerated by a community in which the ideas of freedom in thought and action are cultivated from earliest infancy. The party that identifies itself with any offensive side-issue of the kind deliberately swamps its chances of success in times of peace, when folks have leisure left to think. In the second place, a new scheme of Suffrage must be adopted, and that without delay. The true conservative men of the Northern States do not desire to see a race thrust bodily in hand and foot and delivered over, helpless, into the irresponsible and unlimited power of unscrupulous white demagogues and plantation freedmen. A compromise has to be arrived at between the destructive, iconoclastic, indiscriminating ardor of the Republican Radicals on the one part, and the reactionary, retrogressive, impracticable obstinacy of the Democratic Bourbons on the other. That compromise can never be any other than a universal agreement to make the Right to Vote dependent on a certain Educational Test and proof of the Regular Payment of Taxation. We must obtain this compromise by legitimate amendment of the Constitution, and not by a parcel of tinkering Congressional Acts and Resolutions. Seven-tenths, at least, of the citizens of the Northern States would fulfil the requisite conditions, and, taking their certain preponderance into consideration, the balance struck at the South would be eminently equitable in principle and perfectly safe in practice. That principle ought to be put into practice. It has got to come to this with in our generation.

I do not suppose that, at present, the readers of the COMMERCIAL will agree with this sweeping conclusion of mine. Old associations, old doctrine, but they will in less than ten years; and if any of our national law-givers should next year succeed in fairly starting this grand and indispensable reform, he will be immortalized the Fortieth Congress and make a reputation as the boldest statesman of his period.

THE GREAT AMERICAN SPHYNX.

We, none of us, like what we are not, to some extent, used to. With all our supposed thirst for novelty we never thoroughly enjoy what is realy new. We did not appreciate Fanny Elisler till we got a little accustomed to the lavish display of female symmetry with which she favored us. In those days we should have been immeasurably shocked at Black Crooks and the Grand Duchess of Gerolstein's *en-can*. We do not appreciate Niagara till we have studied it for about a week. Even new clothes are uncomfortable till we have worn them for a while. It is then no matter of surprise that in a nation of talkers and spouters the acoustomed apparition of a persistently Silent Man *should be a maddening source of aggravation and annoyance.* To an individual like Horace Greeley, who will, every once in a while, wear his heart upon his sleeve for daws to peck at, it must be horribly exasperating. To persons who like to blurt out whatever they think, and then aggressively try to jam their thoughts into other people's heads—persons, for instance, like Ben Wade and Thaddeus Stevens—it must be tantalizing to a degree that words are inadequate to describe. No doubt Longfellow has maliciously cast stones at the Sphynx in impotent rage at its granite impassivity. Our Sphynx is the target of similar chrillitons of silly irritation now. But, thank Heaven, he remains imperturbable and self-contained as his race of ludicrous antetype. Grant, in his magnificent indifference to every impertinent endeavor to make him "say something," reminds me of the big Ben Van Amburgh's menagerie, who placidly rests his head on his paws and regards with such sublime contempt the puny pokes of foolish cane and umbrella carriers. The movement in the city here to bring him out, whether he will or no, for the Presidency, is engineered by men of influence and unusually high tone. The *Times* in their organ, and, I can assure you, the recent judicious management of that paper is giving it a commanding supremacy as the exponent of wise, safe, and moderate Republicanism, while the childish peevishness and vacillation of the *Tribune* are fast undermining the powerful hold it once had on the party. It is plain to any one, not blinded by fanaticism and folly, that if General Grant chooses to permit the use of his name, party lines would be virtually obliterated and Radicals and Copperheads alike would be crushed beneath the avalanche of combined Republican and Democratic conservative enthusiasm. Still, as you have heard me say before, I hope and verily believe he would decline a nomination.

CONCERNING LOCAL POLITICS.

There are plenty of people in Pittsburgh who, I know, will take some little interest in our municipal elections of next month. The contest is a very singular one. Tammany, putting forward the present Mayor—Hoffman—for reelection, relies on the prestige of the Old Wigwam, on the immense machine of City Hall patronage, and on large accessions from the conservative Republican ranks. Fernando Wood, putting forward himself, relies on his own *Mozart organization*, on Hoffman's unpopularity with the Irish and *German* elements, on the liquor dealers, and, strangely enough, on the sore-head bolting Radicals, who, having no chance of success themselves, hate, will help him just to spite the Twenty-Third street "moderates." Mr. Darling has only been brought out in the hope that, being wealthy, he will generously spend a few spare thousands for the benefit of the "statistics" and other needy hangers-on, without which no party seems to be able to exist. I seldom venture a prediction, but I cannot resist the temptation to prophesy a Democratic triumph. That the election of a man of his antecedents, right on the heels of the late result in the state, will have a depressing effect on many a loyal heart I do not doubt; but it should be remembered that there is really no connection between national affairs and New York squabbling over the spoils. Where civic offices can be made North as much in a year as the Presidency in its full term, a pliffonic, not patriotism, is the end that's mainly held in view.

PERSONAL.

Sometime between now and New Years we are to have a visit from Alexander H. Stephens, who has been invited by many eminent and worthy citizens of all shades of political creed to deliver a public address at Cooper Institute on reconstruction and the general condition of things at the South. Stephens always commanded a considerable amount of respect and even a sort of charitable regard at the North, and he is sure to meet with a hospitable reception and draw crowded audiences.

The last card in the sporting line that has been played lately is the Rev. Newman Hall, D. D., of London, who mixes up religion and politics very eloquently and adroitly, and succeeds in attracting large gatherings of the respectability of the metropolis. Dr. Hall is, in point of fact, a highly correct species of sensation; yet, would you believe it, the *Tribune* gave his really fine address of one hour and one hour only three-quarters of a fifty lines of space. Rather a paltry way of treating a man who has been identified all his life with the Anti-Slavery movement, and who was one of our ablest and most earnest defenders abroad during the war. The *Herald* gave him two columns and a half, and the *Times* nearly as much.

PANEM ET CIRCENSES.

Panem, I am sorry to say, is very hard to get. I have not seen such hard times everywhere since '57. Business is terribly dull, and retrenchment is the order of the day. Yet amusements have seldom been more flourishing; and the the theater managers are exhibiting an extraordinary amount of boldness and liberality. The most successful venture is the Comic Opera, under Mr. Bateman's direction, at the French Theater. Nothing of the musical and dramatic order can be compared, for sparkling vivacity, rollicking humor, charming melody and thorough originality in inception and performance, with *La Grande Duchesse de Gerolstein*. And then there can be no greater treat imaginable than to enjoy the exquisite grace, lead pliquancy, and the genuine spirit of overflowing fun, which Irishizes every performer in it. For parts such as Gotze and de Felcourt play—requiring first rate vocal cultivation, superior dancing ability and an inexhaustible fund of spirits and physical activity, there are no actresses on the American or English stage.

The dramatization of Henry Ward Beecher's Norwood, by permissi-n of the reverend novelist, has proved a failure. People prefer going to Plymouth Church when they want to hear preaching.

Ristori goes to Havre on Wednesday. Fanny Janauschek, the really great German tragic actress, will visit Pittsburgh this winter. Do not fail to to see her in Medea. The Florences are doing well at the Broadway theater, and will also be with you early in the spring.

Next summer we are to have, in one of the pleasantest private parks near the city, a great gathering from all parts of the world of sharpshooting, gymnastic and musical societies. The idea is of course one of German origin, though it is intended to make the affair cosmopolitanly international. A hundred thousand guests are expected, and wealthy citizens have already subscribed several thousand dollars to set the project fairly going. F. W.

A Maniac on Board a Railway Train—A Thrilling Scene.

From the Detroit Post, November 7.]

A gentleman who arrived from Chicago on Tuesday morning gives the following particulars in relation to an affair which transpired on the train, and if the circumstances are as stated they are sad indeed. A middle aged man came into the sleeping car just after leaving Chicago on Monday night and ordered a berth, and it was observed by his fellow travelers that he seemed in great mental agitation, and would often press his hands to his temples, at the same time muttering to himself unintelligible words. After entering the berth he commenced groaning, and was then asked the cause of his trouble, which he stated that he was the captain of a boat which had laid up for the winter at Milwaukee, where he had been paid his wages, amounting to $2,000, but had been enticed into a gambling saloon and had there fallen a victim to two sharpers who introduced that novel game known as "three card monte," and left him penniless. From a friend he had borrowed money enough to bear his expenses to Buffalo, where he has a wife and three children, whose subsistence, in addition to what he was to have been the money he had lost. He repeatedly exclaimed: "Oh, my poor family, what will become of them this winter? They will starve, they will starve." He then laid down, and nothing more was heard from him for some time, when the conductor of the car was alarmed at hearing the crash of glass, and rushing to the berth of the unfortunate man, found that he had smashed the window with a view of endeavoring to effect through. He was pulled in again, when it was found that he was a raving maniac, and it became necessary to bind him. His ravings were described as fearful, and upon reaching Jackson it was found necessary to remove him from the train, and he was delivered to the authorities for safe keeping.

The Southern Cloud.

The Worcester *Spy* makes the following suggestive extract from a letter received in that city, from a gentleman in Alabama:

* * * "The elections North have made rebeldom jubilant. Already the programme is announced that in two years no Unionman will be permitted to live in the South; that negroes will be remanded to slavery; that negro schools will be abolished; that the South will yet govern; that repudiation will certainly follow; that New England will be reduced to a single State or left to run in the wash; that New York and Pennsylvania, unless they behave, will be required to accompany New England; that the South must be remunerated for her sacrifices; that there are no Republicans except in New England; that Southerners will—as an eminent secesh physician said to me—lie, perjure themselves, or do anything to defeat the Union party. Such is the sentiment here to-day. Northern Copperhead journals are cautioning Southern people to have no riots. The advice is acted upon. The programme is to offer no personal violence to white or black until they see the whites united, but if one announces himself a Union man or a Republican, patronize him no longer; starve him out; ostracise him; isolate him; and if that does not bring him into subjection, kill him as soon as the Presidential election is over. Northern people, being incapable of such hatred, cannot conceive such to be the nature of things, and will not believe it, but it is true nevertheless. I will defy any conscientious Democrat to live one year in —— and not change his opinions. * * The whites held aloof from the election here, chiefly on account of the negroes voting; but the Union men did not vote for fear of losing their means of support. Notwithstanding there were so many negroes in the city, yet it was the most quiet election ever known here."

The Financial Problem.

From the Philadelphia Gazette.]

For our own part, we agree with the New York *Nation* in thinking that the bank currency ought to have been greenbacks, and we further think that if we are to have fifty or a hundred millions more of national banking capital, now is just the time to issue greenbacks to these new banks instead of bank notes. With the greenbacks there can be no such things as discount and par redemption, and probably that is the reason why New York is so strenuously opposed to that form of currency. If a popular vote were taken on the subject, we undertake to say that a majority in favor of it would sustain the greenbacks. To the friends of the national banks (among whom we rank ourselves) we say, in all kindness and friendship, that all they say and do against the greenback currency only makes enemies for the banks. These institutions must be sustained by public sentiment, or they cannot be sustained at all. We say to them seriously that they are suffering from their own supersevicable advocates to pursue a course that may prove dangerous to their best interests. The banks must be prepared to yield with a good grace and a cheerful temper what otherwise will be taken from them, despite them or their wishes. These concessions that will be demanded of them are in no sense injurious to the banking interest, and in our judgment the best thing the banks can do is to demonstrate to Congress their readiness to assent to any reasonable changes in regard to the increase of capital or additional safeguards, or the form of the currency or its volume. By so doing they will entitle themselves to the confidence of the public and of Congress.

English Journals on American Finances.

The London correspondent of the New York *Times* writes as follows: "I noticed one day this week an article bullying the *Times* for saying that a Radical had talked of evading the debt, and the *Daily News* also stated that its contemporary had suggested that repudiation was in "full progress." In the turmoil of the article in the *Times*, and of course found no trace of it of the kind. It was, indeed, said that Butler had brought forward a precious scheme for cheating the national creditors, but the very same paragraph pointed out the folly of thinking that the whole Republican party denounced the proposition. To-day I see another article in the *Times* which at any rate silences the cavils of the *Daily News*. It contends that repudiation will never be attempted in America; that the people will meet 'all the claims upon them without deductions or evasions,' and that the Americans 'are entitled to expect the English people to believe that they will pay their debt, and pay it in full and in gold.' I think that the nicest sensitiveness of our protectors in England can find nothing to object to in this. They are determined to stand by you, however, to the last, and they are firmly convinced that they saved the Union, and that it now belongs exclusively to them.

Betting in New York.

The pools sold by Tommy Johnson, at Reilly's restaurant, corner of Broadway and Twenty-eighth street, were paid off Thursday evening to the holders of the successful tickets. The sum of money that has changed hands over these elections is something incredible; $25,000 passed through the hands of the auctioneer, $100,000 was bet in Reilly's restaurant alone, and we shall not be far wrong in estimating that the total amount will not fall short of $500,000. The principal bet was between the election of Jimmy O'Brien are the Hon. John Morrisey, who pockets some $15,000, and Joe Himes, Nolan, Eckerson, and Eddy Cuddy chime to the tune of something between $7,000 and $8,000. These are now all preparing for the coming campaign for Mayor, and the Tammany ticket is a strong favorite, as odds are offered on Hoffman's election, and the $500, or $600 won on O'Brien is ready to go up again to support their man. Tommy Johnson will start selling pools soon again on the result.

An Old Authority on Protection.

Benjamin Franklin, writing in London, on the 22d of April, 1771, to Humphrey Marshall, says: "Every manufacturer encouraged in our country makes part of a market for provisions within ourselves, and saves so much money to the country as must otherwise be exported to pay for the manufactures he supplies. Here, in England, it is well known and understood that, wherever a manufacture is established which employs a number of hands, it raises the value of lands in the neighboring country all around it; partly by the greater demand near at hand for the produce of the land, and partly from the plenty of money drawn by the manufacturers to that part of the country. It seems, therefore, the interest of all our farmers and owners of lands to encourage our young manufactures in preference to foreign ones imported among us from distant countries."

The Coming Men in North Carolina.

It is represented in a dispatch that the complexion of the Radical delegates to the North Carolina Convention, the election for which will be held on the 19th inst., most of whom will be elected, will be an improvement on the Virginia delegates, as the candidates are generally men of greater intellectual calibre, and of enlarged cultivation. Three leading colored men, Messrs. Harris, Flood and Galloway, are running, with every chance of success, and it is probable that they will be subsequently elected to Congress. Harris, who is one of the most intelligent colored men in the State, is spoken of for United States Senator, and will receive a strong support from the Union men all over the State for that position.

CROUP CURED BY SULPHUR.—The *Medical Gazette of Paris* states that M. Langanterie of Paris, after observing the effect of sulphur on the oidium of grape vines, was led to administer it in several cases of croup. He mixes a teaspoonful of sulphur in a glass of water, and gives a teaspoonful of this mixture every hour. The effect is described as wonderful. The disease is cured in two days, the only symptom remaining being a cough arising from the presence of loose pieces of false membrane in the trachea. Mr. L. says he has followed this plan in seven cases, all being severe, especially the last, in which the child was cyanotic, with protruded rolling eyes and noisy respiration.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, November 20, 1867.

The demand to-day for money was very brisk, which was met more liberally than usual. The supply of loanable funds appears on the increase, and good named short paper can be placed with tolerable ease, at rates slightly under the ruling figures for some time back.

—Government securities in New York are quiet and barely steady in price. There is a fair demand at the counters of the dealers, but an absence of large operations. The foreign bankers are at present doing nothing of consequence.

Prices closed a fraction below yesterday's. The report to Messrs. McVay & Co. and James T. Brady Co., gives the closing rates to-day:

U. S. 6s 1881	113
U. S. 5-20s, 1862	106½
U. S. 5-20s, 1864	105¾
U. S. 5-20s, 1865, May and November	105¾
U. S. 5-20s, 1865 January and July	107¾
U. S. 10-40s	103½
December '64 Compounds	119
June 7-30s	108
July 7-30s	107¾
Gold	139¾
Silver	137½

—The market sensibly firmer in the forenoon, but weaker in the afternoon, and closed at the lowest figures of the day. Quotations of the railroad list have gone back very sensibly from the point to which the late New York Central clique had pitched them. The market is fast assuming its old status, and transactions are narrowing down, with very little outside support. It is a brokers' market and prices are uncertain. The *Herald* says: "It is generally expected that prices will be allowed to sink a little lower before the cliques will rally the market by buying, but their object is clearly to bleed the street on the bull side and not the bear side, and consequently a quick recovery from the present depression is to be expected. The market is a treacherous one, however, and those who are out of it will do well to remain out of it, but it is idle to say this to the thousands of brokers and other professional speculators who daily crowd the Stock Exchange and who encourage fluctuations in order that they may profit by them. The market is controlled by cliques to an extent which makes it independent of outside support, and the earnings of all the leading railways are larger than they were at this time last year, which is an important consideration in estimating the future course of prices. Those, therefore, who look for anything more than temporary reactions in the upward movement for some time to come will be likely to find themselves mistaken." It is reported that the Lake Shore Company have determined to declare a dividend upon the preferred stock. The common stock is said to be "cornered."

—At Chicago the *Tribune* reports business in financial circles as generally very quiet, though one or two of the discount houses reported that the packers and grain dealers were checking more liberally. The shipments of currency were reported much larger—mostly to interior points in Iowa—for the purchase of hogs. Money is quite easy, and some of the banks complain of a scarcity of first class mercantile paper. We hear that some loans were placed to-day at eight per cent. The general bank rate is ten per cent., and any less figure is purely exceptional.

—The discount operations of the banks at Cincinnati, according to the *Commercial*, continue large, but by no means cover the demand for accommodations, and borrowers are about as ready to pay full rates of interest as ever. It seems that the conservative or hedging course of some of the banks has resulted in increasing their stock of currency, but in order to accomplish this it has been necessary to resist very importunate appeals from borrowers in all branches of business. It is still to be noted that the large demand for money results from no activity in trade, but rather the opposite, and may properly be regarded as indicating the fact that trade continues dull and that the falling off in the commerce in them with its consequent healthy flow of currency.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } WEDNESDAY EVENING, November 20, 1867. }

We cannot report any favorable change in our general market since our last report. Trade continues extremely dull in every branch of business, and there is no apparent prospect for any revival.

The receipts of some of the leading articles of produce per river and rail since our last were as follows: Flour, 300 bbls; corn meal, 100 bbls; oats, 400 sacks; barley, 719 sacks; rye, 254 sacks; oats, 501 sacks; and butter, 32 packages.

We quote as follows, which are the wholesale store prices, unless otherwise noted:

ASHES—Receipts of pots and pearls unchanged. We quote at $2 50@3 50 ₱ bbl as to quality.

ASHES—We quote sales of soda ash at 4½c; refined at 5½c, and pearls at 12c ₱ lb.

BEANS—Receipts fair. We quote at $3 50 ₱ bush.

BUTTER—Since our last there has been a large sale, and we continue to quote at 30@40c ₱ lb, for choice table butter. Receipts very small with a good demand.

EGGS—Market poorly supplied. We quote them in demand at 30@32c ₱ dozen.

POTATOES—Sales of Peachblows were made at the depot, at 90c@$1 00 ₱ bushel. Jersey sweets are selling at $6 50@$7 75 ₱ barrel.

HAY—From country wagons loose timothy hay is selling at $19 00@$23 00 ₱ ton as to quality. Baled hay, on the track, may be quoted at $22 00@$25 00 ₱ ton.

CHEESE—We quote Hamburg at 16@17c; factory at 17c, and Goshen at 18c ₱ lb.

HOMINY—Choice flint hominy is quoted at $7 50 ₱ bbl.

ONIONS—We quote choice onions at $2 00 ₱ bush.

BACON—New sugar-cured hams have made their appearance in the market. The first of the season were offered for sale by F. Sellers & Co. to-day, at 20c ₱ lb, for plain sugar cured. We quote old canvased sugar cured hams at 21½c; shoulders at 13c, and rib sides and bacon at 17c per duli.

LARD—We quote lard at 13½c ₱ lb.

LARD OIL—We quote No. 1 lard oil at $1 10@$1 12, and No. 2 at 88@90c ₱ gal.

HANLEY—We note a decrease of spring at $1 40 ₱ bush.

RYE—We note a good demand at $1 55 ₱ bush, delivered, and $1 50 ₱ bush, in depot.

OATS—We note sales from depot at 66@67c ₱ bush; from country wagons, at 60c ₱ bush, and from store, at 70c ₱ bush.

CORN—We continue to quote old shelled at $1 18@1 20 ₱ bush, and new ear dull at 85@90c ₱ bush.

WHEAT—No sales reported. The millers are amply supplied at $2 80 ₱ bush for red winter and $2 90 for white wheat.

FLOUR—Market slightly active. We quote choice spring selling at $10 50@10 75; medium at $10 25; winter at $11 25@12 75, and white wheat at $13 ₱ bbl. Buckwheat flour is in demand at $5 50 ₱ hundred, and rye flour at $5 50@$5 75 ₱ barrel. The City Mill prices are as follows:

Barrels.	In Paper Sacks.	Retail,
	₱ bbl.	₱ bbls.
White wheat, XX, $13 10	$12 80	$13
City Mills	12 30	13 00
Chapman X		13 00
Orleans		12

DELAINES.

FEED—At the mills the prices for shorts, ₱ hundred, wholesale, are $1 60, and middlings $2 50 ₱ hundred.

The Washington street mill prices are $1 30, wholesale, for corn meal ₱ bush; chop corn and oats, ₱ hundred, $2 50; chop corn, ₱ hundred, $2 50; corn bran, ₱ hundred, $1 50; barley shorts, ₱ hundred, $2 75, and barley flour, ₱ hundred, $4 25.

Business active in this line of goods, but without causing any material change in prices. Sugars are firmer. Fish lower. Rice down. Coffee easy. Excepting fish and rice, our quotions remain the same, as at our last report.

We quote:

COFFEE—Old Government Java, 35c; Laguayra, 27@28c; Rio, choice 26½c; prime, 25½c; good, 26¼c; roasting, 22@23c.

SUGARS—Porto Rico, 14@14½c; Cuba, 13@14c; Sugar House, 11½@12½c; Granulated, 17c; Powdered, 17½c; Crushed, 17½c; A Coffee, 16¾c; B do, 16¼c; Extra C, 15c; C 13c.

MOLASSES—New Orleans, ——; Porto Rico, 70@80c; Cuba, 60@75c; Demerara, 85c.

SYRUP—Lovering's, $1 00; other choice brands, $1 00@1 05; fair to good, 90@95c.

TEAS—Young Hyson, common to finest, 90@$1 85; Imperial and Gunpowder, do, $1 25@2 00; Japan, 90@$1 25; Oolong, 90c@$1 75.

RICE—Carolina, 10½@11c; Rangoon, 9½@10½c.

VINEGAR—Pure white wine vinegar, in original packages, 75c; common 25@30c.

FISH—No. 1 Shore Mackerel, $21; No. 1 Bay, do, $21; No. 2 Bay, do, $15; No. 3 large do, $12 50@$13 00; Lake Herring, $7 75; White Fish, $8 75. No 2 Shore, $15.

SODA—English Bicarb 8c.

SPICES—Pimento, 35c; Pepper, 35c; Cloves, 45c; Nutmegs, $1 20; Cassia, 75c.

SOAP—McKeon, Van Haagen & Co.'s Chemical Olive, 10c; Babbett's, 12c; Oakley's, 11½c.

LYE—Concentrated Lye, 90@$1 00.

LARD OIL—Proctor & Gamble extra No. 1 Lard Oil $1 18.

CANDLES—Proctor & Gamble's star candles, 28c for full weight.

ISINGOO—Madras 90c@$1 50; Manilla 95c@$1 45.

BAR LEAD—12½c.

DROP SHOT—13c.

PITTSBURGH MARKETS—WEEKLY REVIEW.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } FRIDAY, Nov. 22, 1867. }

Pig Iron and Blooms.

There is but little change to note in the market for raw iron. Business continues fairly active.

Sales of finer grades of standard and forge pig are so reduced as to restrict sales, and owing to the scarcity of which, transactions since our last report have measurably been confined to medium and low grades, in foundry irons but a moderate business is doing.

Transactions for the Past Two Weeks:

	Nov. 9.	Nov. 16.
Bituminous Coal, smelted	2,400	1,805
Anthracite	600	840
Charcoal	200	740
Total	3,200	3,385
Blooms	200	200

Being a falling off this week of 61 tons in pig iron and 10 tons in blooms.

We quote sales as follows:

Bituminous Coal Smelted from L. S. Ore.

250 tons low grade mottled Forge	$27 50—6 mos.
125 tons do do	41 00—cash.
125 tons do do	41 00—60 d's.
100 tons do do	40 00—cash.
100 tons do do	41 00—4 mos.
200 tons close gray do	50 00—cash.
100 tons close gray do	50 00—4 mos.
50 tons mixed with native ore	41 00—4 mos.
300 tons Mahoning Valley Forge	41 00—4 mos.
250 tons do do	40 50—4 mos.
40 tons do Foundry	44 00—4 mos.
45 tons do do	43 00—4 mos.
30 tons coke	43 00—4 mos.

Anthracite.

25 tons Neutral Forge	$ 40 00—6 mos.
50 tons Josephine No. 2, foundry	45 00—cash.
50 tons White Forge	38 50—4 mos.
35 tons White	38 50—4 mos.
200 tons Gray Forge	42 00—4 mos.
100 tons Gray Forge	41 00—4 mos.
25 tons No. 1, foundry	47 00—cash.
50 tons No. 1, foundry	47 00—4 mos.
100 tons White	38 50—6 mos.
20 tons No. 2, foundry	44 00—4 mos.
10 tons No. No. foundry	45 00—4 mos.

Charcoal Smelted.

250 tons No. 2, forge	$ 48 00—4 mos.
100 tons No. 2, forge	48 00—cash.
180 tons No. 2, forge	50 00—4 mos.
80 tons Cold Blast, forge	46 00—3 mos.

Blooms.

10 tons Juniata	$ 97 00—6 mos.
10 tons Juniata	95 00—cash.
10 tons Charcoal	95 00—6 mos.

Iron Bars and Nails.

During the past week the iron market has not presented any new feature of interest, and at the present writing there are no signs of a speedy return to the activity and vigor usual at this season of the year. There is, however, more inquiry than was noticed some three weeks since, and manufacturers are more sanguine that business is slowly mending, and that before long trade will grow gradually a trade equal to former years, and that commercial affairs are on a fair way to resume their wonted animation. Should there be a rise in the Ohio river, of which at the present time there is no prospect apparent, there would at once be a revival in trade. All the shipments West and South, and, indeed, in every direction have now to be done by rail, and the railroads have more to do than they are able. Railroad freights are much higher than in river, and the shippers of Pittsburgh from on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers are loth to order to any extent until they can have their orders forwarded by river. Prices remain unchanged.

Hardware.

There is a moderate trade doing, but without any noticeable improvement in transactions since our last weekly report. Prices remain unchanged, and are likely to remain so for some time to come.

Glass.

We have no improvement to note in the window glass trade. Our manufacturers are forcing their works only to a moderate extent, and the pattern glass at reduces rates, determined to hold their trade during the fall, and hoping for a reduction in the price of labor that would justify them in going on with their works during the winter. It now depends upon the workmen whether the window glass factories run full time this winter or stand idle four or five months. If they consent to a reasonable reduction such as we are informed the manufacturers have asked for, there will be full time, as was established during the war, when gold was selling at 280, the most of the works will continue in blast, and seven or eight hundred workmen find steady employment at high wages, if they do not consent to an abatement in the manufacturers will be compelled to shut their works, and hundreds of thousands of dollars will be lost to the workmen and the manufacturers, as well as the general interests of the city injured. When will our employers and workmen meet in a spirit and settle their differences without resorting to the cost y machinery of strikes, lock-outs, etc., etc.? We continue our quotations for small lots, but large purchasers could probably do 5 or 10c better than our outside rate on round lots.

Lumber.

There continues a fair demand from the yards, and dealers do not complain of any dullness during the entire season. Prices unchanged, and the same as reported for several weeks.

Miscellaneous.

There is a moderate business doing in the leather, hide and oil markets, at last quotations. In foreign and domestic fruits there has been no change since our last review, and the jobbing trade reported.

Other articles are reported dull in all branches of business, and prices unchanged.

PITTSBURGH DRY GOODS MARKET

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } THURSDAY, November 22, 1867. }

The great bulk of the Fall business is over and our jobbers are at present keeping an eye to getting their stocks in good shape for closing the season's business, and will be in shape when the early spring trade comes to take advantage of the low rates which may then prevail. Goods are in active demand, and trade is in a satisfactory condition. And collections are quite fair. No change in prices are to be noticed, and the figures prevailing on a majority of articles are the highest ever reached by the consumers of low and medium goods can buy at prices as low as before the war, the general feeling is one of satisfaction that the long feared tumble to old prices has been averted for the present. There is, however, more inquiry than was noticed some three weeks since, and manufacturers are more sanguine that business is slowly mending, and that before long trade will grow gradually a trade equal to former years, and that commercial affairs are on a fair way to resume their wonted animation. Should there be a rise in the Ohio river, of which at the present time there is no prospect apparent, there would at once be a revival in trade. All the shipments West and South, and, indeed, in every direction can have now to be done by rail, and the railroads have more to do than they are able. Railroad freights are much higher than in river, and the shippers of Pittsburgh from on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers are loth to order to any extent until they can have their orders forwarded by river. Prices remain unchanged.

FAMILY MARKET.

LIVING EXPENSES IN PITTSBURGH.

CAREFULLY REVISED EVERY WEDNESDAY.

OFFICE OF PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } WEDNESDAY November 20, 1867. }

The following are the retail prices current for the various articles, of the best quality, entering into daily family consumption:

BREAD AND CRACKERS.

Wheat loaf, each	10
Rye "	10
Boston Crackers, ₱ lb	15
White "	16
Soda "	15
Oyster "	15
Water "	13
Butter "	18
Sugar "	16
Graham "	15

BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS.

Butter, print, ₱ lb	50@60
" Prime Roll	50
" Common	20@30
Pine Apple Cheese	40
"	60
Eggs, ₱ doz	30@35
Dutch Cheese, ₱ lb	25
Cheese, com'n Ohio	16

FISH—FRESH.

Lake Salmon	16
White Fish	12½
Herring	6
Catfish	10
Suckers	6

FISH—DRY, SHELL, SMOKED, ETC.

Cod, dry, ₱ lb	10
Lobsters, in cans, each	25
" Prime Roll	50
Shrimps, ₱ can	20
Soup beans, ₱ qt	15
Potatoes, ₱ bush	75
Radishes ₱ bunch	5
Potatoes, ₱ half bush	40
Parsley, ₱ bunch	5
Onions, ₱ bunch	5
Lettuce, ₱ head	5
Spinach, ₱ peck	20

Mackerel, No. 1 large, ₱ lb
Mackerel, No. 2 large
Mackerel, No. 3 large
White Fish, ₱ lb
Salmon, smoked, ₱ lb
Salmon, pickled, ₱ lb
Halibut, smoked ₱ lb

FLOUR, MEAL, &c.

Extra Family, ₱ bbl	10
Extra Family, in bags	9
Buckwheat, ₱ lb	5
Rye meal	3
Graham	3
Fancy St. Louis flour ₱ bbl	$15 50

FRUITS, NUTS, ETC, DRY.

Apples ₱ lb	12½
Almonds, "	50
Apples, ₱ peck	20@30
Peaches, "	18
Peaches, quartered	10
Raisins, Valencia	20
Peanuts ₱ qt	10
Walnuts ₱ qt	20
Prunes (cooking)	20
Prunes (eating)	50
Pecans	40
Filberts	30
Citron	40
Dates	40
Figs	20
Citrons ₱ lb	50
Dried Plums, ₱ qt	45

FRUITS—GREEN, CANNED, JELLIES, ETC.

Apples ₱ half peck	15@25
Lemons ₱ doz	75
Grapes, Concord, Wine-low's	40
Grapes, Catawba, ₱ one	50
Blackberries, ₱ can	50
Peaches, ₱ can	50
Pineapples, ₱ can	50
Tomatoes, ₱ can	25
Sardines, ½ box	40
Lobsters, ₱ can	50
Peaches, 3 ₱ cans	1 00
Boneless Sardines	70
Grapes, ₱ lb	20@25

Assorted Jellies in tumblers
Pickles, in Jars, 30, 40 and 50c
Ketchup, ₱ bottle
Worcestershire, ₱ bottle
Sauces
Pickles, ₱ 100 by the bbl
Pickles, ₱ quart jars
Pickles, ₱ gallon jars

GROCERIES.

Coffee, choice Rio	30
" fair	28
Roast Rio ₱ lb	35
Java	40
Mocha	40
African ₱ lb	30
Sugar, cured ₱ lb	18
" light	15@18
" crush'd and powdered	19
Molasses, Porto Rico ₱ gal	80@1 00
New Orleans	1 10
Syrup	1 00
Sorghum	90
Vinegar, cider, ₱ gal	40
Rice	12@14
Farina	15
Hominy	10
Cracked Wheat	15
Candles, sperm	45
" tallow	18
Soda ₱ lb	15
Saleratus	12
Starch	15
Soap, family ₱ lb	10
Soap, castile	20
Pepper ₱ lb	75

Imperial
Gunpowder
Hyson
Young Hyson
Oolong
Souchong
Tallow ₱ lb
Kips
Calf

MEATS—FRESH.

Sirloin, ex cut ₱ lb	20
Sirloin, family cut	18@20
Round ₱ lb	18@20
Corned Beef	12
Corned Rib	15
Plate and Navel	8
Veal, ₱ lb	15@18
Hearts	20
Mutton, ₱ lb	15@18
Mutton Chops	15@20
Pork, ₱ lb	15@18
Liver Pudding	10

Leg of Mutton, ₱ lb
Veal Cutlets, ex cut
Veal Cutlets, ex ₱ lb
Roast Veal, ₱ lb
Roasting Veal
Tallow Scraps, ₱ lb
Roasting Pieces
Boiling Pieces
Shoulder Pieces
Hashes (sheep) each
Calf's heads, each

MEATS—SALT, SMOKED, ETC.

Dried Beef, ₱ lb

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1867.

TERMS:

One copy, per year.....$2 00
In clubs of twenty, per year.....1 50
One copy gratis to the getter-up of the club.

NEW YORK AND SUFFRAGE.

The approaching municipal elections in the city of New York may possibly give zest to the contemplation of the suggestions made by our contemporaries of different sections—as to a modification of the qualifications for the exercise of the elective franchise. The nomination by the Mozart Democracy for Mayor will hardly present itself to those who have recollections of the past as the result of intelligence rightly exercised—even if possessed—and the other wing of the same party does not perhaps add greatly to the pleasure of the outlook—except as it may increase the chances of a Republican triumph, and thus of a temporary deliverance of one department of the municipality from "evil estate." Such a deliverance would be very partial, since it is very probable that it would be out of harmony with the other departments, and therefore be more or less trammelled, by want of co-operation, if not by positive hostility. Besides, if the success of the Republicans be occasioned by the disagreements of the present rulers, it would probably be but temporary—and by the time another election is to be held, the consolidated force of the foe would carry all before it—roll up its usual huge majority, and again assume the control of the municipal government. We should of course be glad of that partial and temporary respite, and hope our Gothamite Republicans will fight a good fight and elect their nominee. But might not something be done which would be permanent in its effects? If we are to believe the representations which are made, the system now in operation does not secure for that city a government greatly to be desired, or which subserves in the best manner the interest of the governed, and a change of some kind has been long hoped for. The fact seems to be that matters could hardly be worse under any system than they have been under the present, and any change therefrom could be tried without any risk of jeopardizing or injuring any real interest of the city. Why not try, then, a change in the qualification of the electors? Make intelligence the basis of suffrage—amending the city charter to that effect. Of course this could not be done by the vote of the citizens of the city under present arrangements, but backed by the rest of the State through the Legislature, it could be done. No where would the results be more quickly realized—and if Representatives heretofore made have been fair, no where is there greater need of improvement.

This would be an entering wedge for the new basis, and if found to work well, it would be a position gained in the conflict which sooner or later is sure to come. A good trying ground is needed, and the experiment ought to be made with all speed if change be at all necessary. No place on the Continent offers so many facilities—and if supported by the rest of the State, the accomplishment of this object is within the range of the possible, why not then let intelligent manhood suffrage be the watchword of the friends of reform in this hotbed of misrule?

WHAT SHALL BE DONE?

To the last number of the *Independent* Mr. GREELEY contributes an excellent article on the "work for Young Men's Christian Associations." Its character may be inferred from the following extracts:

"But I think our Young Men's Christian Associations should declare open, resolute war against every form of conceded moral evil. I would have them cease to be fearful lest the being of any young man who seeks to make gain of Woman's corruption and ruin. I hold that every prowler for human prey should have reason to expect the being of any Young Men's Association to be ready to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. I would have them employ lawyers, recorders, police magistrates and chiefs, made aware that they must work with and for them, to expose iniquities without the certainty of exposure and public reprehension. I would have the keeper of every dog-hole, every den of infamy, made to comprehend that Christianity, as embodied in its Young Men's Associations, is a living superstition, a devil haunt and the salvation from ruin of those who would be its victims. I would have him feel that it loves him too well to permit him to persist in his hideous calling one moment beyond that at which it shall be able to wrench him from."

"I do mean that there is, in my view, room for improvement in the efficiency wherewith many associations give effect to their convictions. I do mean that the great mass of them have not yet found ways had reason to live—that their infancies are especially assailed by endless perils, and the suffering of such an association under the shadow of their roof is a thing which no Young Men's Christian Association in any village, and in almost any city, should open its eyes to endure. I will not say that the gain of souls thereby must forthwith set their houses in order, or prepare the legal conveyances of their property; but I do say that the good seems most precious and sacred."

Leaving Mr. GREELEY and the noble army enlisted under the banner of the Young Men's Christian Associations to fight as best they can the vices and the evils which he so vividly portrays, we want to suggest that perhaps something can, with profit, be done to prevent some part of those vices and evils coming into existence. As we view the case, the means of prevention are inadequate—if they were not those of cure would not be so severely taxed. To illustrate: On almost any of the bright Sundays of the season which is just closing, might have been seen some hundreds—probably thousands—of young men idling away the day on our street corners or wandering aimless about town, or driving or otherwise locomoting into the country. How they got through the day, others can tell as well as we can. By far the larger part of this class of our citizens, we are persuaded, would gladly spend the day in an improving way; but as it is, they constitute an almost innumerable host from whose ranks the devil recruits for the service which Mr. GREELEY has described. Why they do not spend the day in an improving way is plain. Where can they go? Whether it be so or not, most of them *feel* that the churches are not open to them—that there is no place for them within their walls,—and they are nearly right in this, for the statistics which our Young Men's Christian Association, after much labor, have gathered, show that were all of our churches filled, there would still be more than *eighty thousand persons left on the outside.* If some of the thousands found on our streets on a Sunday play the loafer, frolic and wander, or if they drive or do worse, from choice, we believe that many there are who loaf and idle away the time, if they do no worse, from the necessity of the case. For the most part these people are mechanics, starting out with good ideas of respectability and morals. That they are bound to take the upward or downward path, according to the influences which, through accident or design, surround them, is as sure as gravitation. What good influences are there to lead them upward—what to prevent them from plunging downward? Most of them are reasoning men. Not all of them perhaps reason rightly. The circumstances in which they are placed are not well calculated to assist them in the right direction. In the nature of the case many of them will become soured and disgusted, by the broad line of demarcation, and go almost inevitably in the wrong way. They are social beings, and if they cannot secure that association they should have, they will accept what is easiest to be found, and that is generally bad. Just here, in our judgment, is the time and place for the Young Men's Christian Associations, or some other, to step in. How they should do it we will not pretend to decide There might be churches free to all, not Sunday poor houses, advertising all who enter their doors, serving rather to aggravate the case; but churches where everything of the best quality would be found and on a footing calculated, to a certain extent, to remove the evil complained of. Some would enter and be saved from confirmed loaferism and all its dreadful consequences. There might also be libraries and reading rooms—institutions which, however for the moment the idea might clash with previous teachings and prejudices, would exert a good influence on all. In these and kindred ways the streets might measurably be rid of the crowd of wanderers, some of them (who can say how many?) candidates now for the lower depths described by Mr. GREELEY. We ask, what is the inevitable consequence of these hundreds and thousands of young men being turned into loaferism every Sabbath day? The good results of closing the drinking places on that day are seen and acknowledged. But this is a negative work, however—the cutting off to just that extent of bad influences. Now, set the positive agencies at work. Street preaching, nor anything of that sort, will do. Men do not like to be advertised as moral mendicants in that way. And besides, that sort of thing is at best but partial and temporary, if not of doubtful utility. The other part of the community have homes—church homes—libraries and elevating influences—on the Sabbath. These have none. Their needs are greatest. Shall they be supplied? If they could be, it seems to us that Mr. GREELEY would have far less occasion to write as he has written above.

WHY THE PEOPLE ARE FOR GRANT.

The Philadelphia *Post*, a spicy paper, lately established in the interest of Mr. CHASE, prints a Washington telegram which, speaking of the GRANT movement, says: "It is the opinion of the best informed politicians that the hurrah movement" will soon die out. The writer could have known little of the temper of the country, or the real character of the GRANT movement. Never was there one with which the politicians had so little to do. It originated with the people, and it is among them; and whoever is unable to interpret it observes not well, and has but a feeble comprehension of the philosophy of popular action. It is the moderation, the firmness, the proven capacity and tried fidelity of General GRANT, far more than his military fame—great and solid as that is—which make him popular with the people and an available candidate. These are reasons which will not soon die out. Of all men in the world, GRANT's fame rests on no ephemeral basis. For more than six years the eyes of the nation have been turned on him more fixedly than on any other man. He has been the foremost actor, shoulder ing mountains of responsibility, in the greatest drama in modern history. There could be no severer test; and he went through it all with increasing satisfaction to the people at every step, and came out with such applause and homage as intelligent people give only to first rate capacity and great deeds. When these deeds are forgotten, and the history of GRANT's part in the war of the Rebellion is effaced, will the movement in favor of him for the Presidency "die out." We ask our Philadelphia contemporary to remember this.

ACTS BETTER THAN PROFESSIONS.

Senator WADE wants Gen. GRANT to back up his professions with some act—no matter what, be it necessary or unnecessary—something or other, just to make a show and a noise. BEN. BUTLER might play the demagogue in that way, but GRANT is no such man, and does business in no such way. He keeps doing, and what he does is from a conscientious sense of duty, without caring a fig what, so far as he is concerned, becomes of the Presidency. In that way he has become a candidate in spite of himself. We all know he has held the South with a steady hand, and inspired the District Commanders—in fact, he has worked the reconstruction machinery so as to secure favorable results in the Southern States. Senator WADE cannot be ignorant of this; and we are inclined to suspect that the demand for "some act" is in the hope of getting something whereby to injure GRANT rather than benefit him. But we beg to refresh the memories of Senator WADE and others like him, with a few facts connected with the passage of the reconstruction bill:

The bill had been returned to the House with the clause providing that the President should not displace the Southern military commanders without advice and consent of the Senate, and had passed the House in that form, when Governor BOUTWELL, of Massachusetts, proposed a joint resolution, which was lost, conferring on General GRANT the power of preventing such removals, conferred on the 3 named in the bill in identical form. Governor BOUTWELL came to his seat in the House directly from the sessions of the Judiciary Committee, of which he was a member, and unanimously following its examination of General GRANT by that committee on the impeachment question. It is well known that General GRANT was strongly opposed at the instance of Mr. Ewing, one of the Democratic members of the committee, who expected to elicit from him something favorable to the President in regarding oath-to-railroad affairs. Inasmuch as Governor Boutwell is beyond question one of the most careful Radicals in Congress, it is fair to presume that he felt convinced from the character of General GRANT's testimony that he was in full sympathy with the Congressional policy of reconstruction, or he would not have offered the resolution above referred to.

PURE WATER.

We have had shown to us what appears to be a feasible plan for purifying, as well as obtaining a large supply of good, wholesome water for our cities, a desideratum much needed since the discovery of oil and the extension of the city limits. The plan has been submitted to competent hydraulic engineers, and meets with their hearty approval. Emanating, as it does, from one of our oldest and most respected citizens, a mechanic himself for many years, and now retired from business, it deserves more than a passing notice, and should engage the thoughtful consideration of our city officials, who are the guardians of the people's health. The plan proposed is to erect a "Coffer dam," of sufficient size, on the river shore, near low-water line, resting on a foundation of piles driven deep enough to give proper support to the walls above; the area within the "Coffer dam" to be excavated to the level of a pump well which would be erected at the engine house, so as to admit of the water flowing through a double line of pipe from dam to well.

A wall of sufficient capacity should be dug and lined near engine house, and connected with coffer dam by a double line of pipe. The water to be pumped from this well into the basin.

The coffer dam in connection with the river would filter the water, the basin of the river being filled to a considerable depth with sand and gravel, the water, in its passage to the dam would deposit all its impurities on the surface of the river bottom, and the current would carry these impurities away as fast as they might accumulate.

By the above plan it is believed not only sweet, pure and wholesome water would be obtained, but economy would be effected in the pumping machinery, which is often troubled by accumulations of sand, gravel and filth in the strainer. The cost of this improvement is estimated not to exceed $30,000.

The plan for the above improvements can be seen at our office by any person so desiring.

PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Now that the modification of the right of suffrage—by basing it upon intelligence—is talked of, attention must be given still more largely to the means which an inhabitant of the "States" may have for acquiring that information which would be needed. Unquestionably the State should see to it that the best facilities shall be given at the least possible cost for the education of its people. In a Republican Government, especially, this is indispensable. The obligation has been early recognized—and systems have been devised and set in operation to accomplish this end. The State has furnished a plan by which school buildings are erected and teachers are employed and paid at the expense of the community at large. In these respects our State is highly favored. But there naturally arises in connection with this, the question whether more than this might not be done with advantage to the people? The right to establish a general school system, would seem to involve in it the right to decide what should be the text book used in its instructions. This right has indeed been exercised by those to whom the State has given the control of the school—and each local board has determined what shall be the books used in the schools of their several districts. The result has been a great variety in the text books employed. Let a family change from one district to another—only a mile or two from their present place of residence, and immediately a change of text books becomes necessary—involving an expense very frequently which the class of people who are most subject to these removals are ill-y able to bear. Now there is no good reason why this should be so. A book which is proper for one school can hardly be improper for another school under the same State system—and surely some method might be devised by which an uniform series of text books might be introduced into the schools of the entire State. The objections to this uniformity would certainly be very few, and of but little real importance—while the advantageous would be numerous—and in other respects of great service in the cause of general education.

PITTSBURGH AND THE OIL REGIONS.

The Allegheny Valley Railroad, connecting Pittsburgh with Oil City, will be completed within the next ten days. The formal opening, however, will not take place till about the first of next month. The event will mark an important era in the history of Pittsburgh and the regions opened by this road. Reserving further comment for the formal opening to Oil City, we take occasion to say, what all our readers will indorse, that the citizens of Pittsburgh and all the regions interested in this enterprise, owe to Colonel WILLIAM PHILLIPS a great debt of gratitude for the energy with which he has managed its affairs since he took the enterprise in hand. No man among us has over done more—it would be difficult to name who in our local history ever did so much of a permanent character for our city as Col. PHILLIPS has done in pushing the Valley Road through to the oil regions. Good as this is, and deserving of the expression of the gratitude of all our citizens, it is not the whole, nor even the best part of the work for which that gentleman will long be remembered by every one who has the welfare of Pittsburgh at

It must now be evident to every reflecting person that the true policy to be pursued in the South is a conciliatory one. The radical party, especially in Virginia, has shown that it has numbers and resolution sufficient for the emergency. A persecuting, proscriptive course towards them is not only inconsistent with former professions, but is every way impolitic. Conciliation and the maintenance of friendly relations should therefore be the aim of all, for the benefit of all. The friendly relations recommended cannot be maintained without the recognition of the situation as it is—not as between races having different civil and natural rights—but the same, whatever difference there may be in material wealth or social condition. And the constitutions to be formed will undoubtedly embrace this as a prominent article, as well as an underlying principle of the whole. Without this they would not be adapted to the condition of the country. And it is to be hoped that a liberal spirit will pervade the Conventions, so that the work shall tend to the pacification of the several States, and the contentment of all good citizens.

NORTH AND SOUTH.

Negro suffrage in the South was the alternative for rebel supremacy. The question was between giving the negro the ballot there, so that with his assistance the loyal whites might bring the States back according to the ideas and purposes for which the war against the rebellion was prosecuted; and the only other course, which was,—permit the unreconstructed rebels to have their own way. There was no room for a doubt—no reason for hesitating. And in this way the Southern States will be reconstructed. The policy will be carried through to the end—bitter, as undoubtedly it is, to the rebellious spirits who howl over the situation. But no such question presents itself in the North. No such necessity exists; and fortunately we are permitted to discuss the question of suffrage calmly. Here we are not forced into one course and not permitted to think of another. The cause of impartial suffrage based on intelligence is presented under encouraging circumstances. In the South the enemy disloyalty had to be met. In the North ignorance and corruption, a no less dangerous enemy, assails the ballot box. The evil is great and growing. No man can close his eyes to it; and it would be the worst statesmanship ever conceived of, while we have the suffrage question in hand, did we not at least attempt to cure what is conceded to be a fearful and growing disease in our system. There is no disputing that in a few years the chief danger to the Republic will proceed from an ignorant and too free suffrage. This is the time to provide against the evil. Impartial suffrage with intelligence and fitness for the standard, is the only sound principle. Therefore we say, let the policy of Congress in the South, which was framed to put down treason and give loyal men the power, be carried out; and let us in the North establish guards against the already alarming and continually increasing evil—Ignorance at the Ballot Box.

TALKING AND DOING

Considering how much talking ANDREW JOHNSON has done, and how little to any good import he has acted, one would naturally suppose that there would be rather less anxiety than there is to have General GRANT break his masterly reticence. Words—exceptiug when sent by telegraph—are the cheapest commodity in the world; and it is not a little astonishing how much more they are regarded by some persons than actions. The careful observer is not to be deceived. Take the most conspicuous acts of a man, and if he utter not a word, there should be no great doubt about him. Gen. LESLIE COMBS was in the habit of saying, give me the starting point of a man's character and some few acts, and I will tell you as accurately what sort of man he is as a surveyor can run out a piece of land. Applying this idea to the Presidency, the Boston *Advertiser* says:

We might have a candidate for the next Presidency who would probably be much as Mr. Johnson, or we could hardly have one who would perform as little for us, if we have a man who is known to have put himself in a firm in a purpose formed for good as the general who carried his army steadily forward from Donelson to Five Forks, through every gathering of fortune, never wavering, blind till victory was reached; a man who is known to have such grand statesmanship as a citizen as he has shown as a soldier, and who framed the terms of surrender at Appomattox in a manner which has disarmed the resentment not rare personal abnegation as he who managed the retrieving of Sherman's mistake in Georgia; a man who has exhibited all those qualities combined, as the general of the army has done in the upper, or Mississippi Valley, and who in the whole administration of the business of military reconstruction; a man who has also, at the time when words become deeds, can give us such noble ones as those which protested against the removal of Stanton and Sheridan and [illegible] President of the will of the people;—who, we have all this in his record, can we not safely trust to correct the opinions on the shifting events of a political situation with which his duties give him nothing to do.

WANTED, HONESTY.

The President, it is said, is determined to have the whisky frauds corrected and the tax collected; and to do this he says the system and the officers will have to be changed. If Mr. JOHNSON will effect this object he can feel sure of the thanks of the nation. Whoever reforms these abuses will have the credit. The loss on whisky alone, in a single year, is estimated at one hundred millions. We may safely conclude that there has been looseness in other respects. Probably half as much more, in one way and another, has been lost. It may be that under no system or circumstances would perfect honesty be secured; but we may safely count on a vast improvement as the result of a resolute trial. With a high average of capacity and fidelity, a large part of that which is now lost would be saved; besides, by remedying known defects in the law, the task might be assisted. To secure this high average of capacity and fidelity, the system of making appointments—especially in the revenue department—should be changed. No man should be appointed before a thorough scrutiny into his character, circumstances, antecedents and capacity had shown him to be up to the standard. To this end Congress should pass a law prescribing the mode of making the necessary examination.

There is such a system governing entrance into the Army and Navy, and why should there be less care in selecting the agents for collecting three hundred millions of dollars annually? The Member of Congress who will bring forward such a bill, and push it through, will insure for himself fame that will last as long as honesty is a thing of value in public affairs. To the responsible majority in Congress we do not hesitate to say, the people expect and will have thorough work; and they expect that their Representatives will address themselves to it without any delay.

THE Chicago *Tribune*, which styles itself one of the most Radical of all the Radicals, takes decided ground against the course proposed by the Radicals in the Alabama Convention and in favor of that of the minority; as laid down in their report on the suffrage question. It was submitted by Mr. PERRY and "requires a residence of "twelve months in the State, and gives the "franchise to all male citizens of twenty-"one years and upwards, who shall take an "oath to support the Constitution of the "United States and the union of the States "thereunder, with the Constitution of the "State of Alabama, disfranchising only "those who violated the rules of civilized "warfare during the war, and persons convicted of infamous crimes."

The majority or Radical report first "provides for the enfranchisement of all male "citizens of twenty-one years and upwards, "without regard to race, color or previous "condition, who have resided in the State "over six months previous to the election, "excepting only those who, while engaged "in rebellion, violated the rules of civilized "warfare, and those convicted of treason "and other infamous crimes. Those who, "being registered at present, shall at the "next election refuse to vote, for or against "the ratification of the constitution are "thenceforth to be disfranchised. The oath "presented for voters requires an abandonment of the doctrines of secession, with "the acceptance of the political and civil "equality of all men, and a promise not "to prosecute others for adherence to the "Union."

The *Tribune* declares that it is in "favor of restoring the body of the lately rebellious Southern people to the enjoyment of all the rights of citizenship, on an equality with the blacks whom our arms have emancipated and enfranchised; and we would have the conventions now in session and soon to meet, make that restoration the order of the day until it is accomplished, to the end that all reasonable cause of complaint may be taken away."

Our Chicago contemporary sums up its views as follows:

"The time for vengeful and vindictive legislation is passed. When the rebellion broke down, a sour and disappointed people held their breath for a year and a half a dozen more of the chief conspirators. The sacredness of the Union needed the vindication that the public choking of these enemies of mankind would have afforded. But time with its healing has allayed the animosities of war, and the man who would now enter upon a career of blood would not be more hunted than the man who supposes that he can so shape legislation in Congress or in convention, as to cut [illegible] the property or [illegible] or the citizenship of a whole people. The greater includes the less. Whatever, then, short of exile, of confinement, or confiscation, is calculated to vex or harass the Southern masses for [illegible] is unfair and can be characterized as revengeful and vindictive."

All this from one of the most Radical as well as leading papers in the Radical West, is evidently uttered without the least fear of being stigmatized a "weather cock" by some organ grinder or Sir ORACLE. We advise the *Tribune* to look out.

THE *Independent* says:

"Shall the Republican party abandon the negro for the sake of retaining the votes? Never! Better die in the gap than run away! Better go to pieces than haul down its colors from the mast."

The *Independent* would be nothing if not high-pressure. It is for crowding on steam continually, even if the boiler is certain to burst. In its estimation avoiding such a catastrophe would be cowardice. The editor—who is the type of a class—seems to hold that to apply common sense ideas to the suffrage question would be to prove faithless to a great principle. The engineer or pilot who takes soundings, observes the winds, notes the currents, and regulates steam and sails accordingly, according to their ideas, is a temporizing and unsafe person. Crowding on all the steam and carrying all the sail possible, in the estimation of the *Independent* sort of people, is the only course consistent with fidelity. Go ahead if shipwreck follow. The application of the common sense principles, which in common things insures success, is not to be tolerated, but frowned down as rank treason. Now, at the risk of incurring the denunciations of this set—and the awful organ-grinder to boot—we will say that we subscribe to no such doctrine. The safe leader heeds every admonition, and calculates well what will be the probable effect to-morrow of what is proposed to be done to-day. This is real fidelity to principle, and nothing else is. Time and circumstances must be carefully studied. What would be thought of a General who did not retreat or fortify when to press on and fight would be certain disaster? The greater the principle a stake the greater the demands of prudence—expediency, if you choose so to call it.

Believing in *impartial suffrage based on intelligence*, we cannot view the result in the States that have just voted on the question of negro suffrage as an unmixed evil. We believe that whenever the question can be calmly considered independent of embarrassing entanglements, the enlightened judgment will be in favor of this only impartial principle—the rule of capacity and fitness. We believe that no citizen should be disfranchised on account of his color, but all enfranchised that are capable of voting with understanding that will insure the Republic against detriment from the peril of ignorance.

MESSRS. BROWN Brothers, PETER COOPER and other leading citizens of both parties of New York, have invited ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS, of Georgia, to speak before the public in that city, during the first week in December, on the Social and Political Condition of the South, and he has accepted. While Mr. STEPHENS is about it, perhaps he will explain whether he entertains the same views now he did the first year of the rebellion about the necessity for a Confederacy based on slavery. Of all the men in the South, Mr. STEPHENS is responsible for the action of the States that followed South Carolina out of the Union. Even after she had gone out, it was conceded that without Georgia followed the scheme would be a failure. Mr. STEPHENS held Georgia in his grasp. Every influence was brought to bear on him. It is to his credit that for the moment he stood for the Union. It was all the more criminal, therefore, when he led his State into rebellion. He cannot say he acted from settled convictions, for one day he spoke earnestly against the high crime of secession, and the very next was guilty of it. Mr. STEPHENS is clearly entitled to the opportunity to explain himself. Before he does that the men who have extended the invitation should not think of listening to him on his advertised topic.

THE Boston *Traveller* estimates the amount of the present manufacturing interest of that city at not less than two hundred millions—the manufactures of the State amounting to three hundred millions per annum. "As Boston capital owns and Boston citizens direct the looms and spindles of Lowell, Lawrence, Nashua, Manchester, Salisbury, Holyoke, Chicopee, Salmon Falls, Dover, Saco, Biddeford, Lewiston, Dexter, and innumerable other small places," says the *Traveller*, "it will be seen that the interests of Boston in the domestic manufactures of the country greatly surpass those of any other city on this continent." Our contemporary is a little too fast. The manufactures of Pittsburgh—that is, what we mean at home when so speaking and what is abroad understood as Pittsburgh—stood three years ago at rising one hundred millions—and Pittsburgh capital and Pittsburgh citizens are in vast factories and kindred operations not included in this.

THERE being no longer a question about a majority report against and minority report in favor of impeachment, the query now is, when will they be made? Our Washington special indicates what the muddle is in regard to the matter. Representatives need have no trouble in determing how to act. Let nothing come between them—except to be set aside—and the prompt consideration of the financial question. It is not for failing to promptly impeach Mr. JOHNSON that the Republican Party stands in the slightest danger. About this matter a correspondent writes:

Judge Wilson, of Iowa, Chairman of the Committee, in whose district there took no Republican failing of during the recent election, will undoubtedly report against impeachment. It is believed that Governor Boutwell of Massachusetts will present a minority report, and an animated discussion is anticipated. Those who have canvassed the House are of opinion that Governor Boutwell will not be able, although he will be strongly backed, to carry his point, and that there will not consequently be an impeachment. It is not improbable however, that the House will pass a vote of censure on the President, against which Mr. Johnson will protest, and declare that it must sooner or later, be "expunged" from the journal.

ONE of the important subjects which will come up for consideration in Congress will be the development of our mineral resources. One idea will be to establish a National School of Miners on a liberal and comprehensive plan. This will have particular reference to the regions abounding in the precious metals, now widely and expensively worked, but from which countless millions can be obtained. It is stated as a remarkable fact that all the discoveries of this character were by accident. Scientific experts, while they have been of great service in providing the process of working and ascertaining the character of the minerals, have never discovered them. Adventurers have done this, and within the last twenty years it is estimated that over one thousand million dollars has been added to the wealth of the Nation by what they have done on the Pacific alone. These mineral lands, whose extent and richness are almost incalculable, it would seem should be made largely tributary to the liquidation of the National debt. The question is worthy of the early and serious attention of Congress.

He is going to push the road through to connections that will give Pittsburgh an independent through line to New York. Although such an undertaking is a great one, yet what has already been accomplished affords the assurance that in the hands of Col. PHILLIPS this also will be done. Of course, we do not intend to withhold just praise from those citizens who have so promptly supported his efforts, and with a liberality second only to his own supplied the means, amounting to between two and three millions of dollars, for prosecuting an enterprise in regard to which the popular belief had come to be, that without foreign aid its completion even to Oil City was practically impossible. With Col. PHILLIPS they have shown what can be done, and set an example which, if followed even to a moderate extent of the ability of this community, would settle at once and forever the question of railroad competition and thereby confer on our city incalculable benefits.

THE *Independent* says: "Out of every three Republicans whom one meets, two are chiefly anxious for the success of negro suffrage, and the third for the success of Gen. GRANT." And the editor proceeds to state that "this third Republican will most likely be found to have either refrained from voting at all at the late elections or to have voted with the Democrats." He who will deliberately put forth nonsense like the above—to say nothing about the fact that it is the editor of a religious paper that does it—is utterly unfit to instruct much less lead the Republican party.

IT is expected that Mr. STEVENS will make an early movement in the House on the financial question, and that General BUTLER will second him, supported by such Democrats as agree to the PENDLETON doctrine, and believe that he is the "coming man". In view of the mixed state of things in this regard, it is stated that those members of Legstions at Washington who are in the habit of sending off weekly inside views of our affairs, are likely to be pretty much nonplussed as the session progresses. If that were all, it would be well.

A WASHINGTON correspondent states that the Western Senators in the coming session of Congress will make an effort to elect General JAMES S. BRISBIN, of Kentucky, Secretary of the Senate, in place of Colonel FORNEY, the principal reason urged being that Pennsylvania has the chief officers of both Houses, Mr. MCPHERSON, Clerk of the House, being from that State. If that be the principal reason, it is a very poor one, for the reason that General BRISBIN is a native and citizen of this State, his residence in Kentucky being only on account of his assignment to military duty there. Nothing would be gained by such change.

THOSE who are disposed to charge the Republican party with the responsibility of the present financial muddle, should remember that it is Mr. MCCULLOCH's policy and not the policy of the Republican party, that has controlled our financial affairs. Mr. JOHNSON and the Secretary agree, and in his next Message the President will give his sanction to the policy under which the country is floundering. When the Republicans obtain possession of the administration, will be time enough to hold them responsible.

THE good luck experienced by the Democrats in New York has given them great expectation relative to the Presidency. SEYMOUR is their preference; but if GRANT is the Republican candidate, SEYMOUR's nose will be considered too much of a joint, and his friends will go for General SHERMAN. But if CHASE is the Republican candidate, SEYMOUR's friends will stick to him. They contend the New York election has given them the right to have a good deal to say.

THE statement is made on the authority of a private dispatch that the President declares that he will yield to no pressure for the removal of Mr. MCCULLOCH, whose policy has his entire approval. There is no prospect of a Cabinet change of any kind. It is stated also, on authority of the same character, that "from the expressed views of Congressmen, there is no prospect of Messrs. STEVENS and BUTLER gaining a respectful hearing in the House in favor of their repudiation scheme."

It is rather refreshing to read the discussions of intelligent stuff now in the Republican papers as to what is the best policy for the party, and what it will and ought to do. The republicans went to the whole people [illegible] and insisted upon a year ago.—*Springfield (Mass.) Republican.*

THE COMMERCIAL, in arguing for intelligent suffrage, has taken no new ground. Two years ago we took the position and have had no reason for regretting it. We trust our contemporary—notwithstanding it "finished up" the work "some years since," will consent to lend a helping hand to the cause where it is not so far advanced toward completeness.

THE New York *World* wants to get up a compromise among those who will acquiesce in a plan of reconstruction. This sounds very much like the talk of DAVIS & Co. at different periods of the Rebellion, and is in the spirit of the Chicago Platform. We see no necessity for a new deal. There is a "path to peace" already open, wherein a vast majority have been for some time and are still marching on. If the *World* chooses to fall in, it can do so, and that will be the only compromise in the case.

WE may assume with tolerable safety that one of the first things Congress does will be the repeal of the four-million-a-month contraction law. Popular sentiment is overwhelming in favor of its repeal. And we may conclude, also, almost for a certainty, that so far as Congress can control our future financial policy, contraction for some time to come will form no part of it. Popular sentiment, setting in the opposite direction, is likely to give shape to the policy of Congress.

THE Democrats it is said have found out that General GRANT will under no circumstances accept a nomination from them. If they ever supposed that he would, they had a very inaccurate opinion of the man. General GRANT will be the Republican candidate, and the Democracy are privileged to support or oppose him. It will not change the result whichever they do.

ALL the telegraphs in England have passed into the hands of the Government, which will see what can be done to give the people cheap telegraphing as well as cheap postage. The experiment—if it is one—will be closely watched in this country.

A GENERAL CONVENTION of American inventors will be held in Chicago on the 21st of November, for the purpose of organizing for mutual protection. Inventors are urgently invited to attend. On the protection of their interests, it is held that civilization in no small degree depends.

THE English Government are changing their policy in regard to ocean mail service. The plan now seems to be, to throw open the contracts to the lowest bidder, and gradually apply the principle to all the steamship mail routes. This will withdraw a very important support, and tend to promote equality on the ocean.

DERRING, confessor of the murder of the Hobbs family, in York county, has confessed the crime, and implicates Doyle, recently acquitted of the charge.

WALRUSSIA.

The Principal Ports and Characteristics of the Country.

Excursions have lately been set on foot for the purpose of obtaining more definite information in regard to the products and productive capabilities of this remote territory. Coal is obtained at Nanaimo, in large quantities, at a depth of about two hundred and seventy feet, the vein varying in thickness from two and a half to six feet. About the Alaska peninsula coal of the best quality crops out on the very shore, and at accessible points. Nanaimo is but an inconsiderable town, and depends solely on the demand for coal. The citizens of British Columbia are anxious for annexation to the United States, and believe that under our government it will prosper rapidly, which it cannot do as a remote British colony. The soil of Vancouver's Island is not well adapted to farming, except on the streams. The whole region is thickly wooded with pine and fir, and though the trees are not large they make the clearing up of the land a laborious task. The town is supplied by some dozen farms, on the islands near by, with grain and vegetables. There are no flouring mills yet in operation, and grain is only used for stock feeding. Wheat is selling for a cent and a quarter per pound. There is a wonderful growth of berries in the summer, and fish and game are abundant. The best farming districts of the island are the Samnich Valley near Victoria, and Comex, a settlement of 300 persons, seventy miles north of Nanaimbo. It is said there are rich deposits of iron and copper among the hills on this part of the island. Those of iron are near by, and if the ore is sufficiently rich, and is abundant, the cheapness and proximity of the coal deposits will be likely to bring about their development. The prospect here is very romantic, the rugged cascade mountains, exceeding even the wild scenery of Arizona and New Mexico. The outlines of the mountains are deeply notched, the tips are snow clad, and the sides dark with pine and fir. Nearly opposite Nanaimbo is the mouth of Frazer river, where a few hundred Chinamen now have the sole business of digging gold. About two thousand miners are employed in the Carriboo mines, and the yield has been better than for several seasons past. Victoria, which is located on the southern extremity of the island, and which sprung up under the Frazer river excitement of 1858-9, and attained a population of 20,000 persons, has gradually diminished until it now numbers but 4,000 souls. Trade is exceedingly dull, and all the cheaper shops and dwellings are unoccupied. On the whole, however, the prospects of British Columbia are not flattering—the people are not increasing their means, either in agriculture, mining or trade, and they are three to one in favor of annexation to the United States.

Where Grant Stands.

"Actions speak louder than words"—an axiom none the less true because old. Grant's acts are engraved ineffaceably on the history of the last six years. They have but one interpretation. No words could deepen their meaning. Where he stood and what he said, politically, while he was acting during the war, may be inferred from the following letter:

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE, }
CHATTANOOGA, MISS., August 15, 1863. }

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN A. LOGAN—*Dear Sir:*—I send you ten days' extension of leave, and will give you as long as you can remain. Your speeches in Illinois, and feel that you are really doing more for the country than you could possibly do while the army of your command is lying idle.

Stay while you feel such good results are being reaped from your labors, and I will extend your leave to cover your absence. In the meantime, should any thing occur to render your services necessary, I will notify you as early as possible or if

Yours truly,
U. S. GRANT, Major General.

That letter, says a contemporary, was written at a dark and critical moment. The fortunes of war were against us. Politically, things looked unpropitious. General Logan was on the stump for the Republicans in Illinois, putting in his blows against Copperheads "good and strong." General Grant not only cheerfully extended his leave, but told him *"to fight it out on that line, if it took him all summer."* "You are," said General Grant, "doing more good there than you possibly can here while the army is lying idle."

New York Charter Election.

At the late election each wing of the Democratic party in New York city cast over 40,000 votes, while the Republicans cast but 25,000. From this the *Times* argues that the Republicans have "not the slightest chance" of electing their candidate for Mayor. It claims that the only chance is the election or defeat of Fernando Wood—which means, of course, the election of Hoffman. A more unsatisfactory position than this one can hardly imagine. The *Times* says Darling, Conservative Republican, has been put up by the Radicals with the view of slaughtering him. The *Tribune* is not at all pleased with Darling's nomination, though preferring him to either of the others. A coalition of moderate Democrats on a candidate of that stripe was its idea. But it thinks possibly Darling may stand some chance. As between Hoffman and Wood, the *Tribune* prefers Wood, though probably it will deny that he is the most thoroughly corrupt and atrociously dishonest man in public life in this or any other civilized country. What a spectacle it would be—Fernando Wood supported by Horace Greeley. Is there no organ-grinder there to give him a lecture?

Railroad Ticket Agents Excluded from New York.

An old statute has been discovered in New York, which prevents any railroads, not incorporated under the laws of that State, from opening offices or selling tickets within the State, under a heavy penalty. It stands in the offices of the Allentown line, the New Jersey roads, the Pennsylvania Central, the Great Western, and every other railroad not chartered in New York. The Commissioners of Emigration have insisted on the enforcement of the law, and the Castle Garden ticket agencies will be abolished, except so far as the New York roads are concerned.

THE Drug Exchange in Philadelphia have held a meeting in regard to whisky frauds. The merchants and manufacturers who participated in the meeting say that the result of their effort to observe the laws scrupulously, and to give all possible assistance to the Government in the enforcement of the laws relating to distilled liquors, has been a ruinous loss to their business, and increased encouragement to those who defraud the revenue, because of the acknowledged failure of the Government to enforce the laws; and they therefore recommend the repeal of the present excise tax of two dollars a gallon, and the substitution of a tax of five per cent., the same as on other manufactures.

On this subject the *Ledger* remarks:

It is a discreditable state of affairs under any government, when the men who combine together to defraud it, which should be maintained and enforced without the necessity for such combination, find that the only reward of their upright and candid course is a ruinous result to their business. Yet it is well known in all mercantile circles where whisky is in demand for manufacturing purposes, or for distilling alcohol to be used in medicinal or chemical preparations, that such is the result.

Tristram Burgess, grandson of Hon. Tristram Burgess, formerly United States Senator from Rhode Island, and descendant of that State, was convicted in the Special Session this morning to four months in the penitentiary and $500 fine, for illicitly retailing a quantity of miscellaneous wines from the back dining-house of Mrs. Sarah J. Adams, No. 30 St. Mark's place. The accused had no defense to make.

So runs a New York police item. Tristram Burgess, the elder, whose name is dishonored by a degenerate relative, was one of the most eloquent men convened in the American Congress. He was the only man John Randolph feared in debate, or was in his own peculiar way, at all his equal. A famous passage between them, marked for extreme pungency, wherein Randolph found him more than his match, is still repeated. A little book out of print we conclude—entitled "The Life and Times of Tristram Burgess," written by himself, was at the time of its publication an extremely readable volume, and would be not less so now, could it be obtained.

THE managers of the Gettysburg Soldiers' Home Lottery staff out with something like a romantic basis, for we are told that in the window of one of the most splendid jewelry stores in Broadway, N. Y., there is a large collection of diamond necklaces, brooches, r